



March 2013 Quarterly Board Meeting Packet

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March Quarterly Board Meeting
 March 12, 2013
 Northfield Inn & Suites

Tuesday – March 12th

9:00-10:15 a.m. Round One Focus Area Committees

- **Communications:** Steve Stierwalt, Chairperson Crystal
- **Education:** Jerry Snodgrass, Chairperson Diamond
- **Planning:** Van Bitner, Chairperson Emerald

9:00- 9:45 a.m. Auxiliary Committee Meeting: Marie Bunting, Pres. Jade

9:45-10:30 a.m. Forestry Committee: David McCormick, Chairperson Jade

10:30-11:45 a.m. Round Two Focus Area Committees

- **Financial Management:** Kenny Vosholler, Chairperson Crystal
 - **Legislative:** Tom Beyers, Chairperson Diamond
 - **Urban Community & Cons:** Jerry Snodgrass & Gerard Fabrizius, Chairpersons Emerald
-

12:00-1:00 p.m. Lunch Ruby/Topaz

1:15-???? p.m. Foundation & AISWCD Board Meetings Crystal-Diamond



association of illinois

SOIL & WATER

conservation districts

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springfield, il 62707
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Program Coordinator
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SHERYL DUCUMMON-PHILLIPS
Peoria SWCD

STEPHANIE FITZSIMONS
LaSalle SWCD

JEREMY PRUDEN
Brown SWCD

TIM ROYER
McDonough SWCD

JAKE VANCIL
Schuyler SWCD

Ray Geroff
Sangamon SWCD

mission

"to represent and empower
illinois' swcds"

MEMORANDUM

Date: February 14, 2013
To: All AISWCD Board Members, Committee Members and Advisors
From: Lonnie Wilson, President
Re: **March 2013 Quarterly Board Meeting**

Please be advised the next Executive Committee Meeting of the Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts has been scheduled. Specific information regarding the meeting is noted below:

Date: March 11, 2013
Time: 1:00 p.m.
Location: IL Department of Agriculture Building-State Fairgrounds
Conference Room 1

Please be advised the next meeting of the Board of Director's and Focus Area Committees of the Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts has been scheduled. Specific information regarding the meeting is noted below:

Date: March 12, 2013
Time: See Agenda (page 2)
Location: **Northfield Inn, Suites, & Conference Center**
3280 Northfield Drive
Springfield, Illinois 62703
(217) 523-7900

If you should have any questions regarding this meeting, please contact the AISWCD office at (217) 744-3414. I look forward to seeing you in March.

Please make sure to contact Sherry Finn, at the AISWCD office, to make any room reservations (if needed) for the Northfield Inn and meal confirmations by Wednesday, March 6, 2013.



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springfield, illinois 62707
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AISWCD Foundation Agenda

Lonnie Wilson, President

Tuesday, March 12, 2013 @ 1:15 p.m.

Crystal/Diamond Rooms - Northfield Inn & Suites, Springfield, Illinois

1. Call to order
2. Roll Call
3. Approve Agenda
4. Approve December 2012 Foundation Meeting Minutes (page 5)
5. Old Business
 - McKibben Scholarship Update
6. New Business
 - McKibben Scholarship Review Committee Assignment
 - Questions on Foundation Financial Reports (see handouts)
 - Approve Financial Reports submitted (see handouts)
7. Adjournment

**AISWCD Foundation Meeting Minutes
AISWCD Quarterly Board
Northfield Inn, Springfield, IL
December 11, 2012**

Chairman Lonnie Wilson called the meeting to order at 8:15 A.M. Van Bitner did the Roll Call.

Approve the Agenda- A motion was made by Darrell Roegge and seconded by Gerard Fabrizius to approve the Agenda as presented, motion carried.

Approve June 2012 Minutes- A motion was made by Dan Doedtman and seconded by David McCormick to approve the June 12, 2012 meeting minutes as presented, motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

George McKibben Scholarship Update- Sherry Finn reported that there was a winner at Summer Conference. He provided proof that he was enrolled so he was paid the \$500 scholarship. There is enough in the fund for a \$500 George McKibben Scholarship to be given next year.

NEW BUSINESS

Questions on Financial Reports submitted- Per Kenny Vosholler there is \$84.39 interest earned on the account. **A motion was made by Lee Bunting and seconded by Jerry Snodgrass to approve the Financial Reports as submitted, motion carried.**

A motion was made by Darrell Roegge and seconded by Terry Davis to adjourn, motion carried.

Submitted by: Sue M. Davis
AC, Christian County

Approved by:

Signature

Date

AISWCD Board of Directors Agenda

Lonnie Wilson, President

Tuesday, March 12, 2013 @ 1:30 p.m.

Crystal/Diamond Rooms - Northfield Inn & Suites, Springfield, Illinois

1. Call to order
2. Roll Call
3. Approve Agenda
4. Approve December 2012 AISWCD Board Meeting Minutes (pages 8-12)
5. Partner Reports: 5 minute restriction (written reports attached if submitted)
 - IDOA: Steve Chard
 - NRCS
 - FSA (page 45)
 - IEPA: Dick Breckenridge
 - IDNR
 - ISWCDEA: Betty Buckert & Kara Downin (page 48)
 - NCDEA (page 49)
 - NACD North Central Report
 - NACD Delegate/Alternate: Lonnie Wilson/Tom Beyers
6. Committee Reports
 - Executive: Lonnie Wilson
 - Forestry: David McCormick
 - Auxiliary: Marie Bunting
 - SWCD of IL Insurance: Melissa Cauble (page 50 & see handouts)
 - Mississippi & Illinois River Coordinating Council Reports: Lee Bunting & Rich Nichols
7. Focus Committee Reports
 - Communications: Steve Stierwalt
 - Education: Jerry Snodgrass (IL Envirothon Report-pages 46-47)
 - Financial Management: Kenny Vosholler
 - Legislative & Resolutions: Tom Beyers
 - Planning: Van Bitner
 - Urban Community & Conservation: Jerry Snodgrass & Gerard Fabrizio
 - Executive Director's Report: Rich Nichols (see handout)

8. Area V.P. Reports
 - Area 1: Jerry Snodgrass
 - Area 2: David McCormick
 - Area 3: Steve Stierwalt
 - Area 4: Carlyn Light
9. Old Business
 - Dues/Delinquent Dues Update-Sherry Finn
 - FY 2012-2013 EPA CREP Grant and CREP Staffing Update-Sherry Finn
 - FY 2011-2014 IUM Grant Update-Kelly Thompson
 - FY 2011-FY 2013 IGIG Grant Update-Rich Nichols
 - AISWCD Website Update- Rich Nichols
 - AISWCD Driveway Update-Rich Nichols
 - AISWCD New Money/Revenue Stream Ideas Update-Lonnie Wilson
 - FY 2013 State Budget Update- Rich Nichols
 - Resolutions/Variance Update-Tom Beyers
 - FY 2013 AISWCD Budget Update-Kenny Vosholler (see handout)
 - FY 2013 AISWCD 65th Annual Meeting Update-Van Bitner
 - Strategic Planning Goals Update/Newly appointed Taskforce Committees (MOU & Outreach)-Lonnie
 - NACD North Central Region Meeting in Chicago-Lonnie Wilson & Tom Beyers
 - NACD Annual Meeting in San Antonio, Texas-Lonnie, Tom, Kenny & Kelly
 - Friends of AISWCD (Affiliate Memberships)-Lonnie Wilson
 - Certainty Update-Lonnie Wilson
 - BMP issues update
10. New Business
 - OMA information update-Lonnie Wilson
 - Farm Progress Show-Rich Nichols
 - Legislator of the Year and Friend of Conservation Selections
 - Questions on Financial Reports (handouts) and Partner Written Reports (pages 45-50)
 - Accept Written Reports
 - Accept Financial Reports (see handouts)
11. Adjournment

**AISWCD Board meeting
December Quarterly Board
December 12, 2012
Northfield Inn & Suites
8:15 a.m.**

Present

Lonnie Wilson, President
Tom Beyers, Vice-President
Van Bitner, Secretary
Kenny Vosholler, Treasurer
Jerry Snodgrass, Area I VP
David McCormick, Area II VP
Steve Stierwalt, Area III VP
Barb Klinger, Council 1
Terry Bogner, Council 2
Lee Bunting, Council 3
Terry Davis, Council 4
Dan Duval, Council 5
Randy Molitoris, Council 6
Joe Rothermel, Council 7
Darrell Roegge, Council 8
Daniel Doedtman, Council 10
Aaron Ferguson, Council 11
Don Beisiegel, Council 12
Roger Jackson, Council 13
Dale Shumaker, Council 15
Gerard Fabrizius, Council 16
Marie Bunting, Auxiliary President
Betty Buckert, ISWCDEA AC Co-Chair
Rich Nichols, AISWCD
Sherry Finn, AISWCD
Kelly Thompson, AISWCD
Gina Bean, AISWCD
Mike Hoffmann, Lobbyist (Arrived 8:31 am)

Absent

Carlyn Light, Area IV VP
Joe Rothermel, Council 7
Mark Roth, Council 9
Tom Anderson, Council 14
Kara Downin, ISWCDEA Co-Chair

Call to Order

Lonnie Wilson, AISWCD President called the meeting to order at 8:20 am.

Approve Agenda

The agenda was reviewed. Additions to the agenda included discussion of and Outreach under New Business.

Motion: A motion was made by Lee Bunting, seconded by Don Beisiegel, and passed to approve the agenda with additions.

Partner Reports

IDOA (Steve Chard) – The Bureau has added two people. Jean Crane has finally been replaced after four and a half years. Dee Clark will perform some of the duties Mike had to pick up after Jean left, and will be secretarial support. A new Account Manager has also been hired, Terry Tiskes. A new Division Manager has also been hired, Laura Sova.

Partner Reports (continued)

She is working out of the Chicago office, but is in close contact with the Bureau. Acting Director Flider is now Director Flider. Employee health insurance has not been paid for the entire fiscal year 2013. First quarter operations and first quarter cost-share has been sent to districts for fiscal year 2013. Hopefully the entire fy13 money will be sent out earlier this year since the money is coming from PFC funds. The Department has been participating in the Governors Drought Relief Task Force. Steve also discussed the "bottleneck region" where the Missouri River flows into the Mississippi River. The flow is normally limited from Missouri to Mississippi River this time of year. There might be some barge stalling. The Governors are appealing to the President to keep the channel flow open. Steve wanted to publicly thank Debbie Holsapple for all the work she had done as insurance administrator, and welcomed Melissa Cauble as the new Administrator for employee insurance.

NRCS (Ivan Dozier) – No Report.

FSA – A written report was included in the packet, but Rick Braden gave an oral report also. Rick discussed the fact they are working under a continuing resolution. He touched

IEPA - Chris Davis gave the report. Chris thanked the board for their enthusiasm and investment in protecting Illinois land and water resources. IEPA written report attached to these minutes.

DNR – No Report.

ISWCDEA – Betty Buckert, ISWCDEA Co-Chair introduced herself, went over new officers for the coming year. ISWCDEA report attached to minutes.

NCDEA – Cindy Moon reported plans are underway for the NCDEA Annual Meeting, to be held in conjunction with NACD Annual Meeting in San Antonio, Texas. NCDEA will also be hosting the Partnership Luncheon, hold board meetings, sponsor an additional Education Workshop, and help to monitor and presenting at different sessions throughout the conference. Irene Moore, NCDEA President, has met with the national partnership quarterly.

NACD & NACD North Central – Jerry Snodgrass discussed the Farm Bill. Jerry encouraged board members to call their Senators and House Members and tell them that we need a Farm Bill. Jerry encouraged board members to try and attend a National Conference; they are very interesting and educational. There will be a North Central meeting January 3 & 4 in Chicago. Jerry expressed appreciation towards Dave White, who has stepped down as Chief of NRCS. NACD staff continues to work with legislative staffers daily on issues. Jerry also touched on endangered species issue. Webinars being held throughout the country was touched on. Lonnie Wilson reported on behalf of North Central. There will be a new chair elected for the North Central Region at the January meeting in Chicago. Lonnie told board members if they have any comments for him to take to the meeting, to send them to him. North Central will also be looking for a person to represent them on the Executive Committee. They will also be elected in January at the Chicago meeting. Jerry Snodgrass will be stepping down as the North Central representative on the National Executive Board. Jerry will be running for Second Vice-President of NACD at the National Meeting in San Antonio. Lonnie also discussed auction items from Illinois to take to San Antonio. He would like to take items from different areas in Illinois that has a "personal touch." If anyone has any ideas, please let Lonnie know. There was a national meeting held last week by video conference that Lonnie participated in. Reports from national partners were given.

Committee Reports:

Executive – Lonnie Wilson reported the Executive Committee talked about items and programs that would be covered later in the different committee reports. Tasks were assigned to different committees.

Forestry – David McCormick gave the report. The committee discussed activities they are moving forward with. The committee is trying to put together a couple of workshops for the coming year. Dave indicated they would like to invite the Illinois Forestry Association, the Tree Growers, and Walnut Growers to the next Quarterly Board committee meeting so they could conduct a round table discussion. Motion to approve the report was made by Dan Doedtman, second by Barb Klinger. Motion carried.

AISWCD Auxiliary – Marie Bunting gave the report. Possible programs and raffle items were discussed at their meeting on Monday, for Summer Conference. Marie reported she would be stepping down as National President at the NACD San Antonio meeting in January 2013. She also promoted the quilt that would be raffled off at the National Meeting on "State Commodities." Marie passed around an envelope for money for raffle tickets.

SWCD Insurance – Annyce Winters, President of the SWCD Insurance Group introduced Melissa Cauble to the board, and gave a brief background on Melissa being hired. Melissa Cauble gave the report (attached to these minutes).

Mississippi and IL River Coordinating Councils - Lee Bunting gave the report. The committee has met three times since the June Quarterly board meeting; once in person, and two by teleconference. The big thing with the council right now is that in LaSalle County a sand mine is being developed. Permit process has been completed. The local community is very concerned about it, because it is adjacent to Starved Rock State Park. The council is making recommendations to the IEPA.

Lobbyist Report & Action Item from Legislative Committee – was given by Mike Hoffman. Mike talked about the Gaming Bill. Senate Bill 1849 was not called during the veto session. The Governor said he wanted to work on a bill for January. The Speaker has assigned one of his top lawyers to try and put the Gaming Bill together that can pass and the Governor can sign in January. The goal is to have the bill heard in the house on January 6, which is a Sunday. They are starting from scratch as far as allocating the revenue. The Governor opinion is that the money should be used for education. There is approximately 40,000,000 in Ag funding that is now in limbo. Mike urged board to talk to legislators about funding for Soil and Water Conservation Districts. It is going to happen quickly. He is not confident that Ag funding will be in it. Representative Mautino is trying to get something together for next year regarding and Ag fee bill. Mike feels that is an initiative the AISWCD needs to engage in. Directors need to talk with the Farm Bureau to make sure they will support an Ag fee bill. A similar fee bill was done this year with DNR. Mike gave Lonnie some legislators' names to talk to about HB 5315, which passed the house last year, to allow open meetings training for Soil & Water Conservation Districts and Drainage Districts to be held in an open group session so that people that don't have access to a computer can take the training. Right now it is only available on a website. Hopefully it will be voted on in January. Tom Byers introduced information from the Legislative Committee meeting. **Dan Doedtman made a motion to move Legislative Day into February, seconded by Barb Klinger. Motion passed.**

Legislative FAC Report- Tom Beyers gave an update on resolutions passed at 2012 AISWCD Annual Meeting as follows:

2012 – 1 – Dead

2012-2 – Proposed presentation at Summer Conference

2012-3 – Ongoing

2012-4 – No progress

Focus Committee Reports

Communications – Steve Stierwalt gave the report. Social media was discussed, along with push text messaging. Steve encouraged LUC Reps to bring this up at the LUC level and would like to see it filter down to the district level. **A motion to proceed and also to adopt social media, privacy policy & push texting by AISWCD was made by Gerard Fabrizio seconded by Terry Davis. Motion passed.**

Education – Jerry Snodgrass gave the report. Jerry stated FFA teams do not feel like they are getting enough information on the Envirothon. Districts need to contact all schools with an FFA team. Only if the FFA team wins at the regional level will they be at the State Competition two days. Jerry encouraged the board to promote Teacher of the Year Award. There were no action items.

Financial – Kenny Vosholler gave the report. **A motion was made by Roger Jackson, second by Barb Klinger to approve the financial. Motion carried.** Recommended adjustments were made in the FY13 budget in the following line items – 5401 – Reduction due to reduced audit costs; 6601 - \$4,000 was added for \$2500 in Presidential travel and \$1500 in Vice-Presidential travel; 6602 - \$1000 added for auto vehicle maintenance; 6707 - \$1600 was added for website. **Motion by Roger Jackson, second by Barb Klinger to approve the FY13 budget with changes. Motion passed.**

Financial (continued)-AISWCD employees were excused from the board meeting temporarily. Kenny discussed employee bonuses and gave the recommendation made by the Financial Committee, and ask for discussion.

A motion was made by Kenny Vosholler, second by Roger Jackson, and passed, to approve Christmas bonuses in the following amounts:

Gina Bean - \$100.00

Kelly Thompson - \$250.00

Sherry Finn - \$750.00

Rich Nichols - \$500.00

Planning – Tom Beyers gave the report. The Annual Meeting was discussed. It will be held June 22 – 23, 2013, at the Northfield Inn in Springfield, which is a Monday and Tuesday. Most of the surveys for the 2012 conference were good. Some comments were that there were not enough sessions directed towards the directors. A tour is hopefully going to be put together for Sunday, for those wishing to attend. The rate for the hotel will be \$70.00, plus tax, per night, with 19% gratuity. The committee recommended “Can you hear us now,” with a logo of then (dust bowl days), and now on either side. **A motion was made by Randy Molitoris to approve the theme for 2013, seconded by Don Beisiegel. Motion carried.**

Urban Community & Conservation – Jerry Snodgrass gave the report. Kelly is working on updating the manual. There were no action items.

Executive Directors Report – Attached to the packet for the boards review.

Area VP Reports:

Area 1 – No Report

Area 2 – No Report

Area 3 – No Report

Area 4 – No Report

Approve Minutes – Motion to approve June Quarterly Board Minutes and also the Financial Reports made by Darrell Roegge, seconded by Terry Bogner. Motion passed.

Old Business

SWCD Dues Update – Sherry Finn gave an update. For FY 2012 – there are ten districts out of 97 who have not paid all their dues. Four districts have paid no dues, Gallatin, Randolph, Scott, and Pope Hardin counties; one district has paid one half (Adams); Pike County has paid \$300.00; four districts that haven’t paid the remainder of third quarter and all of the fourth quarter, Boone, Greene, Hamilton, Jefferson. The outstanding balance is \$9,545.13. For FY13, eight districts have paid the first quarter dues. Delinquent notices will not go out until around January 15th, to SWCD Chairmen.

Taskforce for SWCD Dues Structure – Lonnie Wilson reported the taskforce is dissolved for now.

Taskforce for District Funding Update – Lonnie Wilson reported the taskforce is dissolved for now.

FY2012 – FY 2013 Grant Updates/CREP Staffing – Rich Nichols gave an update to the board on current grants. Six people have been hired for the CREP Resource Specialist positions, and started on November 1, 2012. Two positions in Council 8 – Schuyler and Brown; one in Council 4 – McDonough; one in Council 5 – Peoria; one in Council 2 & 3 – LaSalle. There is a CREP training scheduled for December 18, at IEPA in Springfield. Rich told the board if they were interested in going, they should RSVP. There could possibly be a webinar available. Gina Bean, new hire at the AISWCD Office introduced herself and gave a little background.

Website Bids – See Financial Committee minutes, voted in budget above (Financial Committee Report).

AISWCD Area I VP Alternate Replacement – The board took a five minute break so that a replacement could be appointed for Area I VP Alternate – after reconvening, Lonnie Wilson reported Chuck Hanley is the new Area I VP Alternate.

AISWCD Plan of Work - Ongoing and will be discussed at the March Quarterly Board Meeting.

AISWCD New Money/Revenue Stream Ideas – Was discussed at the September Executive Meeting. A list has been drawn up and the Executive Committee is studying them is where the AISWCD is now.

FY13 2013 State Budget Update – Lonnie said the last he heard the State is 12.3% short on revenue. We are now off the GRF funds, and are on grant lines.

FY 2012 64th AISWCD Annual Meeting Resolutions Update/Variance - Already covered.

AISWCD FY 2013 Budget Update – Already covered.

AISWCD FY 2013 Quarterly Board Meeting Dates/Location/Expenses – Lonnie reported that was part of the packet, with the exception of the Executive Board Meeting in March, the meeting will be Monday, March 11, at 1:00 pm at IDOA, in Conference Room 1. The next day will be a full day of committee meetings and Board meeting at the Northfield Inn.

New Business

NACD Annual Meeting – San Antonio, Texas – Kenny Vosholler will attend as the Scholarship recipient (North Central monies) this year. Lonnie Wilson asked for a motion to accept himself as the NACD voting delegate, and Tom Beyers as the alternate. **A motion was made by Randy Molitoris, second by Barb Klinger to accept Lonnie and Tom as voting delegate and alternate to NACD. Motion passed.**

NACD North Central - Lonnie reminded the board of the North Central Meeting in Chicago the first part of January (covered in NACD report above).

AISWCD Driveway Maintenance – Part of the driveway is starting to deteriorate. The pours were incorrect as far as the mix. There will probably need something done to it in the next year. Rich is going to get a hold of the general contractor to see what they recommend. He has had a preliminary conversation with Chris at EPA about this. Rich will update the board in March.

AISWCD 2006 Dodge Caravan Maintenance Bids - Already covered.

AISWCD FY 2012-2014 Auditor Bids – Already covered.

Approval FY 2012 Updated Budget – Already covered.

Outreach – Already covered in Communications Report.

Memorandum of Understanding with NRCS – Lonnie has talked with ISWCDEA and at Executive Committee meeting. A new modernized agreement is needed. The State Conservationist agrees. Lonnie is asking for a couple of representatives from the employees, and will be putting together a task force soon and will be also contacting directors.

AISWCD Financial Reports – Already covered.

Questions on Written Reports – No questions.

The meeting adjourned at 12:20 pm, with a motion by Darrell Roegge, second by Barb Klinger.

Minutes taken & transcribed by:

Cindy Moon

Approved by:

Signature

Date

Executive Committee Agenda **Lonnie Wilson, Chairman**

March 11, 2013 at 1:00 p.m.

Illinois Department of Ag Bldg-State Fairgrounds-Conference Room #1

1. Call to order and introductions
2. Roll Call
3. Approve Agenda
4. Committees/Focus Area/Taskforce Updates
 - Communications: Steve Stierwalt
 - Education: Jerry Snodgrass (Il Envirothon Report-Pages 46-47)
 - Financial Management: Kenny Vosholler (See Handouts)
 - Legislative: Tom Beyers
 - Planning: Van Bitner (Annual Mtg/Awards Taskforce-Pages 35-37 & see handouts)
 - Urban Community & Conservation: Jerry Snodgrass & Gerard Fabrizio
 - Auxiliary: Marie Bunting
 - Forestry: David McCormick
5. Area Vice President Reports
 - Area I: Jerry Snodgrass
 - Area II: David McCormick
 - Area III: Steve Stierwalt
 - Area IV: Carlyn Light
6. Old Business
 - Dues/Delinquent Dues Update: Sherry Finn
 - FY 2012-2013 EPA CREP Grant and CREP Staffing Update-Sherry Finn
 - FY 2011-2014 IUM Grant Update-Kelly Thompson
 - FY 2011-FY 2013 IGIG Grant Update-Rich Nichols
 - AISWCD Website Update- Rich Nichols
 - AISWCD Driveway Update-Rich Nichols
 - AISWCD New Money/Revenue Stream Ideas Update-Lonnie Wilson
 - FY 2013 State Budget Update- Rich Nichols
 - Resolutions/Variance Update-Tom Beyers
 - FY 2013 AISWCD Budget Update-Kenny Vosholler (see handout)
 - FY 2013 AISWCD 65th Annual Meeting Update-Van Bitner
 - Strategic Planning Goals Update/Newly appointed Taskforce Committees (MOU & Outreach)-Lonnie
 - NACD North Central Region Meeting in Chicago-Lonnie Wilson & Tom Beyers
 - NACD Annual Meeting in San Antonio, Texas-Lonnie, Tom, Kenny & Kelly
 - Friends of AISWCD (Affiliate Memberships)-Lonnie Wilson
 - Certainty Update-Lonnie Wilson
 - BMP issues update

7. New Business

- OMA information update-Lonnie Wilson
- Farm Progress Show-Rich Nichols
- Legislator of the Year and Friend of Conservation Selections
- Questions on Financial Reports (handouts) and Partner Written Reports (pages 45-50)
- Accept Written Reports
- Accept Financial Reports (handouts)

8. Approve Minutes: December 2012 Executive Committee Meeting (pages 15-18)

9. Adjournment

**Executive Committee Meeting
December 10, 2012 @ 9:00 a.m.
Northfield Inn, Suites & Conference Center, Springfield, IL**

Present

Lonnie Wilson, President, NACD Delegate
Tom Beyers, Vice President, NACD Alt. Delegate
Kenny Vosholler, Treasurer
Jerry Snodgrass, Area I VP
David McCormick, Area II VP
Steve Stierwalt, AREA III VP
James Todd, Past President
Rich Nichols, AISWCD
Sherry Finn, AISWCD
Kelly Thompson, AISWCD
Gina Bean, AISWCD

Guests:

Terry Davis, LUC 4; Barb Klinger, LUC 1; Ivan Dozier, NRCS; and Wade Louis, IDNR

Absent

Van Bitner, Secretary
Carlyn Light, Area IV VP
Marie Bunting, President of Auxiliary
Betty Buckert, ISWCDEA AC Co-Chair
Kara Downin, ISWCDEA RC Co-Chair
Mike Hoffman, Lobbyist

Call to order:

President Lonnie Wilson called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m.

Roll Call:

Sherry Finn took roll call and 7 Executive Board Members were present and 2 were absent; 4 AISWCD staff members were present along with 4 guests.

Agenda Approval:

Lonnie Wilson noted he needed to amend the agenda to include the memorandum of understanding and the outreach taskforce; Jerry Snodgrass noted to amend agenda with BMP updates with articles in Ag News-fertilizer; **Steve Stierwalt made the motion to accept the amended agenda and Kenny Vosholler seconded the motion; MCVV.**

Committee/Taskforce Updates:

Communications: Steve Stierwalt reported from the Executive meeting in September that the FAC goals for communication needs an overall plan (strategic plan); LUC meetings need to have information reported to them from LUC representative; Jerry Snodgrass noted they need to include legislators at their meeting along with the Legislative Newsletter information; Lonnie Wilson noted there needed to be AISWCD representation along with the legislators at the LUC meetings; Tom Beyers noted that the employees need to report to the Directors and there needs to be more communication between AISWCD and Districts. The committee is looking into video conferencing for the state; Lonnie Wilson would like for the Communications FAC to look into video conferencing. Steve Stierwalt suggested having a well-planned meeting, time well spent, reason they need to be there, and are they making a difference and have a stake in the game, so to speak, to come back. Jerry Snodgrass stated that all Partners report at LUC 1 meetings and also partake in the meetings. Tom Beyers noted that the Strategic Plan needs to be on the website; Lonnie Wilson stated a poll or survey from Communications needed to go out to LUCs to determine if their meetings need to take place before or after AISWCD Board Meetings.

Education: Jerry Snodgrass reported the Envirothon is still receiving questions regarding the FFA team participation and discussing the fee amount is smaller this year for the FFA teams.

Financials: Kenny Vosholler reported the Envirothon expenses, the AISWCD 2012 Audit, and the 2013 Budget are the main topics.

Legislative: Tom Beyers reported funding (gaming bill) will be the priority; progress in getting word out to legislators; prevailing wage-they are trying to get support from other co-hearts. Tom feels we need to contact Farm Bureau in get them in our corner and convince them we are a worthwhile cause.

Legislative (continued): Lonnie Wilson asked Tom Beyers and Steve Stierwalt to start with a resolution and work with Farm Bureau to help "draft" resolution and bring the resolution up through local Farm Bureau from Districts and LUCs. It was noted that we need to contact Farm Bureau to attend AISWCD quarterly board meetings. Lonnie Wilson assigned this task to Rich Nichols. Tom Beyers reported the strategic planning goals are on target and suggested we have a resolution update at the 2013 AISWCD Annual Meeting.

Planning: Tom Beyers reported for Van Bitner that plans were underway for the 2013 AISWCD Annual Meeting and it would take place at the Northfield Inn, Suites & Conference Center in Springfield, IL on Monday and Tuesday, July 22-23, 2013.

Urban Community & Conservation: Jerry Snodgrass said Kelly Thompson would report for the committee; Kelly Thompson reported about monthly webinars, need for promoting programs, and visits to LUCs 3 & 16 for best practices.

Area Vice President Reports:

Area I: Jerry Snodgrass-No Report

Area II: David McCormick-No Report

Area III: Steve Stierwalt-No report

Area IV: Carlyn Light absent; no report

Old Business:

SWCD Dues Update-FY 2012 & 2013: Sherry Finn reported there are still ten (10) Districts "not in good standing" for FY 2012 dues; Gallatin, Pope-Hardin, Randolph and Scott have not paid any dues for FY 2012; Pike paying \$300 for FY 2012; Adams only paying ½ of dues for FY 2012; Boone, Greene, Hamilton & Jefferson paying only the 1st half and partial 3rd Q dues for FY 2012. Total amount still due for FY 2012 dues is \$10,043.07. Sherry reported the 1st Q allocation payment had been paid to Districts on November 8, 2012 and the AISWCD had invoiced for dues as of November 30, 2012; eight (8) Districts have paid as this time.

AISWCD President Appointed Taskforce for SWCD Dues Structure &

AISWCD President Appointed Taskforce for District Funding Update: Terry Davis reported the committees had not met since there was a lack of direction of what the outcome would be with the funding situation (gaming bill). Lonnie Wilson noted we would dispense with these taskforce committees until revenue situation is established.

AISWCD CREP Staffing: Wade Louis the acting CREP Program Manager from IDNR reported on the new CREP program and staffing with a slide show. Wade reported the Illinois River Basin had six (6) new CREP Resource Specialists that were employees of the AISWCD and were housed in District locations- Brown, LaSalle, McDonough, Peoria, Sangamon, & Schuyler Counties. They would be serving the LUCs for each area. The National Great Rivers Research and Education would be employers of four (4) new CREP Resource Specialists to serve the Kaskaskia River Basin and the tentative Districts where they will be housed-DeWitt, Fayette and Madison along with Sangamon County for the trainer. Wade Louis reported there would be a meeting December 18, 2012 for the three agencies to work together to streamline the process.

AISWCD Website Bids: The executive committee decided to move this to the Financial FAC.

AREA I VP Alternate Replacement: Jerry Snodgrass reported the LUCs 1, 2 & 16 had asked Chuck Hanley of Livingston County to serve and he had agreed; Jerry noted they would vote tomorrow at the Board Meeting.

AISWCD Plan of Work: The executive committee decided to move this to the Legislative FAC.

AISWCD New Money/Revenue Stream Ideas: Lonnie Wilson reported he had spoken with Frank Mautino about level funding; spoke with Director Flider from IDOA about disbursements; discussed Ag Bill, DNR Bill, Certainty Bill (Districts doing something with livestock operations); third party programs; Recycling Tires, electronics, & shingles; coal fire power plants with tax credits for emissions; grants with governmental agencies. Rich Nichols will check into all this information for possible framework.

FY 2013 State Budget Update: Rich Nichols reported the state is broke; 12.3 % less revenue; gambling bill will be addressed in January session.

FY 2012 64th AISWCD Resolutions/Variance: Already discussed in Legislative FAC reporting.

AISWCD FY 2013 Budget Update: The executive committee decided to move the budget to the Financial FAC and have them look into changes which included van insurance.

AISWCD FY 2013 QB Meeting Dates/Location/Expenses: The original dates decided upon were looked at and suggestions were made to change March 2013 executive meeting date from March 5 to March 11, 2013 with location to be determined and to start at 1:00 p.m. **Jerry Snodgrass made the motion to change the date to March 11, 2013, find a location, and start the meeting at 1:00 p.m. and Tom Beyers seconded the motion; MCVV.**

New Business:

NACD Annual Meeting-San Antonio, Texas:

NACD Delegates: Steve Stierwalt made the motion to put forth Lonnie Wilson as the NACD delegate and Tom Beyers as the NACD Alternate delegate and Jerry Snodgrass seconded; MCVV.

NACD Resolutions: Lonnie Wilson asked if there were any questions on the NACD resolutions; there were none.

NACD Director Training Certification: Sherry Finn reported they had received word from NACD that the AISWCD would be receiving an award for the Quality in Official District Training and they needed two people to receive the award at their Annual meeting luncheon. **Steve Stierwalt made the motion to have Lonnie Wilson and Jerry Snodgrass accept the award and Kenny Vosholler seconded; MCVV.**

NACD Photo/Poster Contest Entries: Sherry Finn reported the AISWCD had submitted seven (7) winning state photos to the NACD Annual Meeting and five (5) winning state posters for the NACD Annual Meeting.

NACD Scholarship Applicant: Kenny Vosholler had been selected to receive the NACD scholarship for the first time attendee and Kenny plans to attend the event.

AISWCD Driveway Maintenance: Rich Nichols reported the driveway is coming apart in some places due to a bad batch of concrete; committee asked Rich Nichols to investigate the solution and report back in March.

AISWCD 2006 Dodge Caravan Maintenance Bids: Rich Nichols reported the van has an intake manifold leak and he had acquired two bids for the repair, which were submitted to the committee. **Tom Beyers motioned to pay \$625.32 to A-1 stop for their bid to repair van and have Financial FAC decide if it needs to come out of FY 2012 Budget or FY 2013 Budget and Jerry Snodgrass seconded motion; MCVV.**

AISWCD FY 2012-2014 Auditor Bids: Sherry Finn reported that she had contacted fifteen (15) auditors to submit bids for the FY 2012, 2013 & 2014 audits for the AISWCD & Foundation accounts. She only had three (3) companies submit bids. **Tom Beyer made the motion to accept the bid of Pelman & Dold, P.C. and Steve Stierwalt seconded; MCVV.**

Amended Agenda New Business Items:

Memorandum of Understanding with NRCS: Lonnie Wilson asked for volunteers to be on a taskforce about the AISWCD concerns; put together a new memorandum of understanding that addresses the field office of the future. The committee left this up to Lonnie to select the taskforce group.

Outreach Program: Lonnie Wilson reported he had appointed the communication chairman and the legislative chairman to an outreach program taskforce committee.

BMP Issues: AISWCD should be involved in the BMP issues that are a focus in the Ag news; Rich Nichols will investigate this; Steve Stierwalt will contact Jean Payn to do a presentation; and Tom Beyers will contact Rich about Steve Baker information.

Questions on Financials: There were no questions on financials.

Questions on Partner Written Reports: There were no questions on partner written reports.

Approve Executive Meeting Minutes: **Tom Beyers made the motion to approved the June, August, and September 2012 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes and any electronic action taken and the motion was seconded by Jerry Snodgrass; MCVV.**

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn made by Steve Stierwalt and was seconded by Kenny Vosholler; MCVV.
Meeting adjourned at 12:18 p.m.

Minutes taken and submitted by:

Sherry Finn, AISWCD Administrative Assistant

Approved by:

Signature

Date



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Communication Focus Area Committee Agenda

Steve Stierwalt, Chairman

March 12, 2013 @ 9:00 – 10:15 a.m.

Crystal Room - Northfield Inn & Suites, Springfield, Illinois

1. Call to order
2. Roll Call
3. Approve agenda
4. Approve December 2012 FAC meeting minutes (page 20-21)
5. Old Business
 - Strategic Planning Goals
 - Dot Point Highlights (pages 41-44)
 - Land Use Council Meeting Update: Rich Nichols
 - Farm Bureau Support and Resolution Update
6. New Business
 - FY 2013 Annual Meeting Sponsorships: Gina Bean
 - LUC Roles in Annual Meeting Award Applications
 - Video Conferencing
7. Adjournment

**Communications Focus Area Committee
Meeting Minutes
AISWCD Quarterly Board
Northfield Inn, Springfield, IL
December 10, 2012**

Members/Advisors Present

Angela Biggs, NRCS
Sue Davis
Dan Doedtman
Dan Duval
Amy Ishmael
Ken Kesler
Mark Roth
Steve Stierwalt, Chairman
Kenny Vosholler
Lonnie Wilson
Rich Nichols

Members/Advisors Absent

Tom Anderson
Carlyn Light
Sarah Seelbach, IEPA

Chairman Steve Stierwalt called the meeting to order. Sue Davis did Roll Call.

Approval of Agenda- A motion was made by Mark Roth and seconded by Kenny Vosholler to approve the agenda with the addition of Resolutions through Farm Bureau process, motion carried.

Approve Minutes- A motion was made by Mark Roth and seconded by Kenny Vosholler to approve the minutes from the June 11, 2012 meeting, motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Strategic Planning Goals Update- Steve will have for next meeting to update.

Discussion on how to better utilize Land Use Councils and what is proper use of Land Use Councils?-

- Rich says some Land Use Councils do send in minutes but By-Laws do not require it
 - It was stated that some Land Use Councils don't know what to discuss when they attend a Land Use Council Meeting. Would like more input from AISWCD on this issue. Rich stated that some of this is done in his weekly report and those could be used at the Land Use Council meetings.
 - AISWCD is looking into software such as "Go To Meeting" to use for meetings
 - It was discussed to make Land Use Council meetings important for Directors to attend and possibly have Director Training at LUC meetings.
-
- The Committee discussed coming up with Agenda Items to be discussed at Board Meetings and then discussed at Land Use Council, then be taken forward to Land Use Council Meetings. Then lastly, brought to each Quarterly Board Meeting.
 - It was also discussed to invite Legislators and their staff to attend each Land Use Council meeting.

Discussion on how to get Farm Bureau support for District Funding?-Ask each county to make contact with their local Farm Bureau to get a resolution through to be Farm Bureau policy. There is a need to add partners such as Extension, 4-H, County Fair Boards, etc. to go with SWCD's on this issue.

Action Item- Ken Kesler made a motion, seconded by Mark Roth to propose the Committee to allow Steve Stierwalt and Tom Beyers to come up with a Resolution and send out to all counties and discuss at Land Use Council meetings then take to Farm Bureau, regarding Farm Bureau's support of SWCD's funding, motion carried.

Dot Point Highlights Update-The Committee still agreed that these were needed each time from the AISWCD.

Adjournment- A motion was made by Dan Doedtman and seconded by Kenny Vosholler to adjourn, motion carried.

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

Approved by:

Signature

Date

Education Focus Area Committee Agenda

Jerry Snodgrass, Chairman

March 12, 2013 @ 9:00 – 10:15 a.m.

Diamond Room - Northfield Inn & Suites, Springfield, Illinois

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approve Agenda
4. Approve December 2012 FAC meeting minutes (pages 23-24)
5. IDNR Report
6. IDOA Report
7. NRCS Report
8. Old Business
 - Il Envirothon Update (to include FFA teams and Variance)-(Report-pages 46-47)
 - Teacher of the Year Award Application
9. New Business
 - Envirothon Sponsorships
 - McKibben Scholarship Review Committee Assignment
 - 2013 AISWCD Annual Meeting Photo and Poster Contest
 - 2013 AISWCD Annual Meeting Director Training Session
10. Adjournment

**Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts
Education Focus Committee
Monday, December 10, 2012
Northfield Inn Conference Center – Springfield, IL**

Members Present

Jerry Snodgrass, FAC Chair
Don Beisiegel
Terry Bogner, Envirothon Chair
Gerard Fabrizius
Barb Klinger
Randy Molitoris

Advisors Present

Dave Dornbusch, NRCS
Joe Bybee, IDoA
Valerie Keener, IDNR
Debbie Ruff, EC

#1 – Call to Order - Chairman Jerry Snodgrass called the meeting to order at 1:08 pm on December 10, 2012.

#2 – Roll Call – The attendance sheet was passed around for all to sign.

#3 – Approve Agenda – Chairman Snodgrass requested that the item of Teacher of the Year sponsorship be added to the agenda under new business. A motion was made by Don Beisiegel, with second by Terry Bogner to amend the agenda. MCVV.

#4- Approve Minutes – Motion by Don Beisiegel. Second by Randy Molitoris. MCVV.

#5 – IDNR Report - Valerie Keener reported the following items:

- The new Director of the IDNR Office of Strategic Services is Marceo Haywood. He started on July 1, 2012.
- The IDNR Division of Education added two former employees of *OutdoorIllinois* magazine in June.
- The license plate renewal fee increase passed the legislature during the veto session and was signed into law by Governor Quinn. Funds will assist the state parks with maintenance and staff.
- The *Illinois Birds: Volume III, Species of Concern* poster was printed with the sponsorship of the Illinois Audubon Society.
- An application for a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Environmental Education Model Grant was submitted. If received, the funds will be offered as mini-grants to support implementation of the *Environmental Literacy for Illinois* strategic plan.
- Forty-nine *Schoolyard Habitat Action Grant* applications were received from the November 30, 2012, application deadline. Nearly \$42,000 in funds was requested.
- The *Illinois Biodiversity Field Trip Grant* application deadline is January 31, 2013. Teachers may apply for up to \$500 each to take students on a field trip to study Illinois' natural or cultural biodiversity.
- Funds from a canceled Illinois Rain Garden Initiative project were added to the initial award given to the AISWCD office for constructing a model rain garden.

#6 – IDOA Report - Joe Bybee reported the following items:

- Director Flider has been confirmed as the Director of Agriculture.
- The Department has a new Division Head. She Laura Sova. She will be housed at the Thompson Center in Chicago, rather than in Springfield. Joe encouraged the group to be sure to invite her to local field days and events as she has a very strong interest in what is going on at the local level.
- Joe reported that the Soil and Water Conservation Society is planning a Cover Crop Conference in Decatur on January 29 & 30, 2013. He believes that this will be a good conference to attend.
- The Northwest Tillage Seminar is scheduled for January 31, 2013 in Princeton. The agenda looks to be a good one. Joe encouraged attendance to this event.
- The Transect Survey is scheduled to be run in 2013. Joe offered his assistance to Districts that might need an extra hand in conducting this activity.

- 15 sites are being sought on major roadways for the new Cover Crop Project.
- 4 hours of CPESC training were offered during the recent employee Winter Training.

#7 – NRCS Report – Dave Dornbusch cited the following:

- Chief White has retired. Jason Weller is the Acting Chief.
- Eric Gerth is the new ASCT – Financial Assistance Programs.
- Conservation Planning and Application courses were held this fall.
- Soil Health is the new national initiative. Roger Windhorn and Paige Mitchell are the lead people for IL. NRCS.
- EQIP is rolled out. Sign-up is going on right now.
- CRP – No new contracts at this time. Everything hinges on what will be in the new Farm Bill.
- CSP – Payments are being made at this time. There is no new sign-up right now.
- WRP – Is on the sidelines. Staff can only work on existing contracts.

#8 – Director Training Task Force - Chairman Snodgrass reported that Illinois will be recognized at the upcoming NACD conference for organizing and implementing its own Director Training.

#9 – Envirothon Task Force – Chairman Snodgrass informed the group that there are still some concerns about the FFA teams being involved in the competition. Some FFA's have expressed frustration that they are not receiving information about the LUC competitions. These concerns will be brought forward to the IL. Envirothon coordinators.

Snodgrass also stated that the registration fees that have been established are \$150 for LUC teams and \$100 for the FFA teams that are only competing on the first day.

The group was also reminded that FFA teams are not eligible to compete at the IL. Envirothon if the SWCD is not in good standing. A school can request a variance to compete.

Dates to remember:

- April 10 – Last day that a LUC can hold a competition
- April 12 – Registration deadline
- May 1 & 2 – IL. Envirothon
- July 21-26 – North America Envirothon at Montana State University

#10 – Old Business

- Specialized License Plates – This initiative did not receive enough orders to go forward.

#11 - New Business

- Teacher of the Year – The group discussed methods to encourage participation in this contest. Chairman Snodgrass requested that the group look over the current application that is on the AISWCD website in the next 2 weeks. If there are any suggestions for change, please let him know ASAP. Valerie Keener, IDNR Education offered to put information about this contest on her various IDNR list-serves. Don Beisiegel made a motion to have Valerie place Conservation Teacher of the Year information on the IDNR list-serves. Barb Klinger seconded the motion. MCVV. The group thanked her for her offer.

A discussion also ensued on whether the Conservation Teacher of the Year would be a single award or would be divided into an Elementary and Secondary category. No motion was made at this time.

New Business continued

- Debbie Ruff informed the group that the Stewardship theme for this year is "Where Does Your Water Shed?" She also let the group know that the Indian Creek Watershed Project has been selected to be the tour site for the 2013 CTIC Conservation In Action Tour. The date of the tour is July 10, 2013.

#12 - Adjournment - A motion to adjourn was made by Terry Bogner. Second by Don Beisiegel. MCVV.

Meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

Minutes taken by: Debbie Ruff, AC Livingston County



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Financial Mgmt Focus Area Committee Agenda

Kenny Vosholler, Chairman

March 12, 2013 @ 10:30 – 11:45 a.m.

Crystal Room - Northfield Inn & Suites, Springfield, Illinois

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approve Agenda
4. Approve December 2012 FAC Meeting Minutes (pages 26-27)
5. Review Financials (see handouts)
6. SWCD of IL Insurance Account Update: Melissa Cauble (page 50 & see handouts)
7. Old Business
 - a. FY 2013 SWCD Dues Payment Update: Sherry Finn
 - b. AISWCD Van repair Update
 - c. AISWCD Website Update
 - d. FY 2013 AISWCD Budget Update (see handout)
8. New Business
 - a. FY 2012 Audit Date
 - b. Kelly Thompson Salary
9. Adjournment

AISWCD Financial Management Focus Area Committee Minutes December 10, 2012

Present:

Kenny Vosholler, Chairman
Dan Duval
Roger Johnson
David McCormick
Steve Stierwalt
Lee Bunting
Lonnie Wilson
Sherry Finn, AISWCD
Melissa Cauble, SWCD Insurance Administrator
Cindy Moon, District Employee
Annyce Winters, District Employee
Betty Buckert, ISWCDEA

Absent:

Tom Anderson
Van Bitner
Randy Molitoris
Darrell Roegge

Chairman Kenny Vosholler called the meeting to order at 3:03 pm.

Dan Duval made a motion to approve the agenda with the following additions, Roger Johnson seconded the motion. MCVV. Additions: Employee personnel evaluations van repair, website bids, audit bids.

Lee Bunting made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 2012 FAC meeting, seconded by Steve Stierwalt. MCVV.

Financials:

Committee members reviewed Financials. **Lee Bunting made a motion to approve the financials, Roger Johnson seconded the motion. MCVV.**

SWCD Insurance – Melissa Cauble gave the report using November figures (see report attached to board meeting minutes). In the future, Melissa will submit a written report for the Financial Focus Committee, and give an oral report at the AISWCD Board Meeting.

Old Business

Dues Update - Sherry Finn handed went over the dues update. For Fiscal Year 2012 – there are ten districts out of 97 who have not paid all their dues. Four districts have paid no dues: Gallatin, Randolph, Scott, and Pop-Hardin Counties; one district has paid one half – Adams; Pike County has paid \$300.00; four districts that haven't paid the remainder of third quarter and all of fourth quarter – Boone, Greene, Hamilton, Jefferson. The outstanding balance is \$9,545.13. For Fiscal Year 2013 – eight districts have paid the first quarter dues. Delinquent notices will not go out until around January 15th, to SWCD Chairman.

New Business

Review of FY 2013 AISWCD Audit Bids – The committee reviewed audit bids and made a recommendation to select Pehlman & Dold for a three year contract in the amount of \$4500 for FY 12, \$4650 for FY13, and \$4800 for FY14, with **a motion by Steve Stierwalt, second by Dan Duval. MCVV.**

Van Repairs – **A motion was made by Steve Stierwalt, seconded by Dan Duval to recommend to board that \$1000.00 be added to budget line item 6602 for van repair. MCVV.**

Website Bids – Four bids were reviewed for re-design of the AISWCD website. **A motion was made by Roger Johnson, seconded by Steve Stierwalt to recommend selection of Westworks' bid in the amount of \$1600.00. MCVV.**

Budget Item – Line 6001 – **A motion was made by Lee Bunting, seconded by Steve Stierwalt to put \$4000 into line item 6001 in the budget, \$2500 for AISWCD President's travel, and \$1500 for AISWCD Vice-President's travel. MCVV.**

Personnel Evaluations – Rich Nichols came into the meeting and reported on personnel and what he recommended as far as wages/ bonuses for employees and then left the committee meeting. Other AISWCD employees were also excused from the discussion. After discussion, **a motion was made by Lee Bunting, seconded by Roger Johnson to recommend the following bonuses for employees to the board. MCVV.** Kelly Thompson - \$500.00; Gina Bean - \$100.00; Sherry Finn - \$750.00; Rich Nichols - \$500.00. The board agreed that a discussion would be held at the March committee meeting about a recommendation to increase Kelly Thompson's salary.

FY2013 Budget Update (Was moved to new business due to the items listed under New Business that needed to be discussed before Action on Budget) – The committee voted to recommend approving fiscal year 2013 budget with above revisions with **a motion by Roger Johnson, second by David McCormick. MCVV.**

A motion was made by Roger Johnson, seconded by David McCormick to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 4:50 pm.

Minutes taken and submitted by:

Cindy Moon

Approved by:

Signature

Date

Forestry Committee Agenda

David McCormick, Chairman

March 12, 2013 @ 9:45 – 10:30 a.m.

Jade Room - Northfield Inn & Suites, Springfield, Illinois

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approve Agenda
4. Approve December 12 Forestry Meeting Minutes (page 29)
5. Updates
6. Advisors Report
 - IDOA
 - IDNR
 - NRCS
 - IEPA
 - OTHERS
7. Old Business
 - Forestry Issues
 1. Letter to Governor
 2. IFA Speaker at AISWCD Annual Meeting
 3. Letters to Groups
 - Workshops
 - AISWCD roll in Forestry Tax
8. New Business
 - Outstanding Forestry Award Recommendation
 - IFA Sponsorship of Forestry Award
 - Nominee Suggestion to the AISWCD President for an AISWCD Representative/Il Forestry Development Council
9. Adjournment

**AISWCD Quarterly Board Meeting
Forestry Committee
Monday, December 10, 2012**

Present: Terry Davis
David McCormick, Chairperson
Randy Molitoris
Dick Breckenridge, IEPA
Ray Herman, IFA
Rich Nichols, AISWCD
Julie Gillmore

Call to Order: David McCormick called the meeting to order at 1:12 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: Terry Davis motioned to approve the June 2012 Minutes as presented.
2nd by: Randy Molitoris **Carried: Yes**

Updates: There were no updates to report.

Advisor reports:

IDOA: No report

IDNR: No report

NRCS: No report

IEPA: Dick Breckenridge didn't report on IEPA, but instead asked questions pertaining to the NRCS EQIP program and how it addressed forestry projects. The committee discussed the program and various requirements, such as the need to use a Technical Service Provider (TSP) to obtain a Forestry Management Plan (FMP), and the fact that all FMPs still need to be approved by an IDNR Forester before the EQIP program will pay the landowner.

Old Business

Forestry Issues: Ray Herman discussed the 4% Forestry Tax that the state of Illinois imposes on landowners. He explained that the revenue from that tax was supposed to go into a fund that was to be used for cost-share on forestry projects throughout the state. Instead, those funds have been consistently swept by the State and used for other purposes. Mr. Herman requested that the Forestry Committee send an official letter to the Governor's Office urging the state to either allocate those funds as originally intended, or do away with the tax completely. He went on to explain that the Illinois Forestry Association (IFA) wanted to handle the situation differently and that he disagrees with their intended approach. He recommended having the AISWCD create a forestry subcommittee to address this issue, and feels that the individual SWCDs should receive more forestry training. He agreed to speak to the IFA to see if they would be willing to have someone speak at the AISWCD Annual Meeting in July. Mr. Herman also asked Chairperson McCormick what the AISWCD policy was on becoming a full voting member of the Forestry Committee. Rich Nichols researched the by-laws during the meeting and stated that to be a full voting member; an individual must also hold a seat on an SWCD Board of Directors in good standing with the AISWCD.

Terry Davis motioned to send a letter to invite the IFA, the Northwestern Forestry Association, the Walnut Council, and the Tree Farm Group to the next Forestry Committee meeting.

2nd by: Randy Molitoris **Carried: Yes**

New Business

The committee discussed whether to hold a workshop this coming year. Chairperson McCormick stated that he would check with some of the other SWCDs to see if there was any interest in organizing one for Summer Conference.

Ray Herman asked that the committee provide him with a list of contact information for its members. Chairperson McCormick stated he would see that he got one. Terry Davis then suggested that Chairperson McCormick ask the AISWCD Board for clarification on the committee's role regarding issues like the Forestry Tax.

Adjournment: Terry Davis motioned to adjourn the meeting at 2:58 p.m.

2nd by: Randy Molitoris **Carried: Yes**

Minutes taken by Julie Gillmore, AC, Menard County SWCD

Legislative Focus Area Committee Agenda

Tom Beyers, Chairman

March 12, 2013@ 10:30 – 11:45 a.m.

Diamond Room - Northfield Inn & Suites, Springfield, Illinois

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approve Agenda
4. Approve December 2012 FAC Meeting Minutes (page 31)
5. Legislative Update: Mike Hoffmann
6. Old Business
 - A. Strategic Planning Goals Update.
 - B. Legislative Action Group/Coalition Group Update
 - C. FY 2012 AISWCD Resolutions/Variance Update
 - D. FY 2013 State Budget Update
 - E. NACD Annual Meeting-San Antonio, Texas-Report (to include National Resolutions)
7. New Business
 - A. Current Legislation Update
 1. Senate Bills
 2. House Bills
 - B. Legislator of the Year Award Nominees
 - C. Friend of Conservation Award Nominees
8. Adjournment

**Legislative Focus Area Committee Meeting Minutes
AISWCD Quarterly Board- December 10, 2012
Northfield Inn, Springfield, IL**

Members/Advisors Present:

Terry Bogner
Dick Breckenridge, IEPA
Sue Davis
Terry Davis
Aaron Ferguson
Ken Kesler
Mark Roth
Dale Shumaker
Rich Nichols
Jim Todd
Tom Beyers, Chairman

Members/Advisors Absent:

Tessa Chadwick, NRCS
Steve Chard, IDOA
Mike Hoffmann
Carlyn Light
Joe Rothermel

Chairman Tom Beyers called the meeting to order.

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

A motion was made by Terry Bogner and seconded by Ken Kesler to approve the minutes from the June 12, 2012 meeting with the correction for SB 1849 not SB 2409, motion carried.

Legislative Update-Mike Hoffmann was absent. Mike is in Chicago meeting with staff of Michael Madigan's office about the Gaming Bill. This bill could be amended. Tom Beyers talked about meeting with Rep. Dale Righter in his area about support for the Gaming Bill. Tom stated there needs to be an effort to gain support from Farm Bureau for SWCDs.

OLD BUSINESS

Strategic Planning Goals - No new developments since Summer Conference.

Legislative Action Group Update-There was much discussion about whether a Legislative Day should be held again this year as there was not much Director participation last year. It was stated that there are many new Legislators this year and the need to meet with different caucuses in the Legislature. The subject of using social media to contact Legislators was also discussed. **A motion was made by Terry Davis and seconded by Mark Roth to recommend forming a Coalition Group with first contact being at the Ag Roundtable and to do this instead of Legislative Day, motion carried.**

House/Senate Bills Update- Continue to follow-up on bills that are in the process.

Feral Hog Resolution-It was recommended to write this and present at Summer Conference to the full membership and then forward on to NACD next year.

NEW BUSINESS

NACD Annual Meeting-The NACD Annual Meeting will be held in San Antonio, Texas, no action required on this from this committee. There is nothing yet on the NACD National Resolutions.

A motion was made by Aaron Ferguson and seconded by Terry Davis to adjourn, motion carried.

Submitted by: Sue M. Davis AC, Christian County

Planning Focus Area Committee Agenda

Van Bitner, Chairman

March 12, 2013 @ 9:00 – 10:15 a.m.

Emerald Room - Northfield Inn & Suites, Springfield, Illinois

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approve Agenda
4. Approve December 2012 FAC Meeting Minutes (pages 33-34)
5. Approve January 23, 2013 Taskforce Meeting Minutes (pages 35-37/ February 19, 2013-see handout)
6. Partner Reports
7. Task Force update
 - Annual Meeting & Awards Taskforce
 - a. Logo Selection
 - b. Award Applications
 - c. Registrations
 - d. Meals
 - e. Sessions
 - f. Sponsorships/Auction
 - g. Partners, Parliamentarian, Sponsors Invites
 - h. Prizes/Contests
8. Old Business
9. New Business
10. Adjournment

**Planning Focus Committee
December Quarterly Board
December 10, 2012
Northfield Inn & Suites – Springfield, Illinois**

Present:

Tom Beyers, Acting Chairman
Terry Davis
Aaron Ferguson
David McCormick
Lee Bunting
Roger Jackson
Lonnie Wilson
Sherry Finn, AISWCD
Marty McManus, IDOA
Cindy Moon, District Employee
Gina Bean, AISWCD (left early)
Kelly Thompson, AISWCD
Betty Buckert, ISWCDEA
Colleen Bogner, Auxiliary (arrived late)
Marie Bunting, Auxiliary (arrived late)

Absent:

Judy Beyers, Auxiliary
Van Bitner
Tess Ferguson, Auxiliary
Mike Rahe, IDOA
Darrell Roegge
Dale Shumaker

Tom Beyers called the meeting to order at 1:02 pm.

Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Terry Davis, seconded by Roger Jackson, to approve the agenda. MCVV

Meeting Minutes from June '12 FAC meeting

A motion was made by Terry Davis, seconded by David McCormick, to approve the minutes of the June 2012 FAC meeting minutes. MCVV

Partner Reports

IDOA – Marty McManus gave the Bureau report. Marty reported Winter Training had good attendance and reported that Laura Sova has taken a position as Division Manager. Marty also reported the Bureau is introducing a cover crop initiative for the next three years. There will be three sites in each region.

NRCS – No report.

Old Business

The 2012 Annual Meeting was discussed. 328 people were registered and there were 307 in attendance. Illinois will receive the award again this year at the NACD Annual Meeting for holding Director Training. The Photo Contest winning entries and Poster Contest winning entries have been submitted to NACD. There were thirty two surveys returned from Summer Conference. On the whole, the comments were positive. Lonnie Wilson commented there were some logistic issues that needed to be addressed. The ticket situation was addressed. The committee felt that perhaps they could have all tickets put in a box, and then have a drawing at the end of the conference.

New Business

Summer Conference - The 2013 Summer Conference was discussed. Sherry Finn reported she has asked for a contract from the Northfield. Rooms will be at the \$70.00 rate. The conference will be held July 22nd and 23rd. The AISWCD is also planning a tour in conjunction with Sangamon County SWCD to do a tour and have a tour bus on the 21st. The AISWCD is also looking into some activity for the evening of the 21st, possibly a walk downtown. Partners have been contacted on sessions. Sherry needs ideas no later than March 1. She needs at least two session ideas from each partner. There will be a partner roundtable hopefully both days, if not, one day. Lonnie Wilson commented he would like to do a Capitol Tour on Tuesday afternoon if enough interest is generated. Kelly Thompson reported she would like to have some sort of rain garden training at the conference. She will check with IEPA to see if they have any money for binders, etc. The committee discussed a theme for the conference. **Lee Bunting made a motion to recommend "Can You Hear Us Now" to the board at Tuesday's meeting as the theme for the 2013 Summer Conference. It was suggested a logo be put on both sides, one depicting dust bowl days, and the other in today's world. Roger Johnson seconded the motion. MCVV.** Other suggestions for sessions for directors included – The Human Resource side of being a district director, personnel evaluations and other HR issues. Terry Davis felt from the feedback on the FOIA training, it was a huge success. Lonnie Wilson suggested somehow the word needs to get out better for contests' for the conference.

Other - Lee Bunting suggested the AISWCD put out something to districts on the new legislative boundaries as soon as possible.

Motion by Lee Bunting to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Roger Johnson. Meeting adjourned at 2:45 pm.

Minutes taken and transcribed by:

Cindy Moon

Approved by:

Signature

Date

Annual Meeting & Awards Taskforce
January 23, 2013 @ 1:30 p.m.
Teleconference Call-(800) 944-8766/24384 #

Present

Betty Buckert, ISWCDEA-AC Co Chair
Cindy Moon
Colleen Bogner, Auxiliary Member
Jane Brangenberg
Lonnie Wilson
Mike Rahe, IDOA
Sherry Finn
Van Bitner, Chairperson
Kelly Thompson

Absent

Aaron Ferguson
Dale Shumaker
Darrell Roegge
David McCormick
Jody Christiansen, NRCS
Judy Beyers, Auxiliary Member
Kara Downin, ISWCDEA-RC Co Chair
Marie Bunting, Auxiliary President
Marty McManus, IDOA
Rich Nichols
Roger Johnson
Shelley Finrock
Terry Davis
Tess Ferguson, Auxiliary Member
Tom Beyers

Call to order:

Van Bitner called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

Roll Call:

Sherry Finn took roll call; 9 members present and 15 members absent.

Agenda Approval:

Van Bitner asked for any agenda updates; **Lonnie Wilson motioned for approval of agenda, Cindy Moon seconded; MCVV.**

New Business:

Annual Meeting Date/Time: The date has been approved by the Board and agreed and contract with Northfield Inn for Monday and Tuesday, July 22-23, 2013 along with a conservation tour for Sunday afternoon-evening on the 21st. This tour is being handled by Sangamon County SWCD.

Theme: The theme was approved and voted on at the December Quarterly Board Meeting. The theme chosen was "Can you hear us now!"

Logo Selection: The committee agreed they did not especially like the logo e-mailed out because it needs to be more positive and show milestones achieved; also, the planning committee had suggested in December to have a picture of the dust bowl and a picture now.

Opening Ceremonies: Sherry Finn noted the opening ceremonies would be at 9:00 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. which will include presentation of flags, officer comments, Partner reports, recognition of new directors and employees, and Director Service Award ceremony with pictures to follow.

Conference Registration: Sherry Finn reported there will be registration forms for the Annual Meeting/Summer Conference; one for meals (there will be a form for member and one for guest) and one for sessions and meetings (there will be a form for member and one for guest). These will be available on April 15, 2012 and registrations can be made until June 30, 2013 (postmarked) with a \$40 registration fee and from July 1 until July 6, 2013 (postmarked) with a \$50 late registration fee; there will be no refunds after July 5, 2013.

Tickets and Name Tags: Sherry Finn reported there will be a ticket provided for each session and/or meeting registered for by the member or guest and a name tag for each registered member and guest. The name tags must be worn at all times unless a member or employee has a photo ID tag, then this may be used in place of name tag. Each participant will need to have their name tag and ticket to enter a meal and/or session/meeting.

Director Training: This is being presented again with modules and instruction is being handled by Jerry Snodgrass and Lee Bunting.

Employee/Director Training: The employee training is being handled by ISWCDEA and Betty Buckert reported they will be having a meeting on February 14, 2013 to work on sessions to be provided. Sherry Finn reported that she had contacted the IDOA to provide Director Sessions and Mike Rahe reported they planned to have a Cover Crop session with NRCS and a Power Point Session on Director responsibilities. Mike Rahe also reported they are having a Regional Rep staff meeting in February to iron out the details. Lonnie Wilson reported they were working on having the OMA training session again and he is in hopes that the legislation will pass to only have to attend a certified session and not have to do it online. Lonnie Wilson also noted he had made arrangements to have a tour of the Capitol on Tuesday afternoon for anyone interested. Sherry Finn reported the IAAP had contacted her to have a meeting and a session on bullying, and they would also like to have a table setup for ticket sales or shirt sales. Sherry noted there would again be a round table session with Partners but held in a larger room at the Northfield. All of the sessions (except Employee/Director Forums) are going to be open to everyone; so a director may go to ISWCDEA sponsored sessions and employees may attend IDOA sponsored sessions.

Recognition Luncheon: This is again going to be handled by the AISWCD Auxiliary and awards, photos and sponsors are being worked on by the AISWCD staff.

Farm Family reception/banquet: The reception will be handled by the Auxiliary and the Farm Family Banquet MC has been secured along with the radios as gifts to be donated by Brownfield network; the Prairie Farmer will again sponsor the farm family sign to be presented at Ag Day at the Il State Fair.

Auction: The check-in and power point are being handled by Shelley Finfrock of DeWitt County again this year; the Auctioneer and the backup auctioneer have been secured (Jim Sacia and Ron Sanert).

Soil Stewardship Luncheon: This is being handled by the Auxiliary again this year and their theme will be "Where Does Your Water Shed?".

Volunteers: Cindy Moon will be taking care of this again this year with the help of the AISWCD staff.

Partners: Sherry Finn reported partner invitations would go out the first of February and would ask them to present at the Opening Ceremonies and/or the Annual Meeting; they would also be invited to take part in the meeting sessions at the Round Table Session.

The committee asked if the surveys could be included on the back page of the program booklet; Sherry Finn noted they could do that so that everyone would have it with them to leave after the conference is over. Lonnie Wilson also noted there would be a place to mark if they wanted to receive e-mails, text updates and alerts; the attendee could give his/her contact information to submit with the survey.

Cindy Moon reminded Sherry Finn that the planning committee had voted to give prizes for meal/session tickets turned in. The committee agreed this was a good idea and the AISWCD will try to secure prize donations.

Next Meeting Date: The next taskforce meeting date was scheduled for Tuesday, February 19, 2013 at 10:30 a.m. via teleconference call.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn made by Van Bitner; meeting ended at 2:08 p.m.

Minutes taken and submitted by:

Sherry Finn, AISWCD Administrative Assistant

Approved by:

Signature

Date

Urban & Community Conservation Focus Area Committee Agenda Jerry Snodgrass & Don Lloyd, Chairmen

March 13, 2012 @ 10:30 – 11:45 a.m.

Emerald Room - Northfield Inn & Suites, Springfield, Illinois

1. Call to order
2. Roll Call
3. Approve Agenda
4. Approve December 2012 FAC Meeting Minutes (pages 39-40)
5. Partner Reports
6. Old Business
 - Green Infrastructure Grant Program: Rich Nichols
 - IUM Update: Kelly Thompson
 - NACD Webinars Update
 - Urban Non-Point Source Pollution Workshop Update
5. New Business
 - CPESC Training/AISWCD Annual Meeting
6. Adjournment

**AISWCD Quarterly Board Meeting
Urban & Community Conservation Committee
Monday, December 10, 2012**

Present: Don Beisiegel
Joe Bybee, IDOA
Chris Davis; IEPA
Daniel Doedtman
Gerard Fabrizio, Co-Chairperson
Renea Hildebrandt, IDNR
Barb Klinger
Don McCallon, NRCS
Jerry Snodgrass, Co-Chairperson
Kelly Thompson, AISWCD
Julie Gillmore

Call to Order: Co-Chairperson Snodgrass called the meeting to order at 3:07 p.m. He introduced new Co-Chairperson Gerard Fabrizio to the committee

Agenda: Co-Chairperson Snodgrass motioned to add the following item to the agenda:
Under New Business; NACD Webinars on Urban Community and RPG Members. Chris Davis also asked, if time allowed, that she be allowed to do a presentation at the end of the meeting .

2nd by: Gerard Fabrizio Carried: Yes

Approval of Minutes: Don Beisiegel motioned to approve the June 2012 Minutes as presented.

2nd by: Dan Doedtman Carried: Yes

Old Business

Green Infrastructure Grant Program Update: Chris Davis reported that a project planned for the Illinois State Fairgrounds was temporarily put on hold due to complaints from a group that didn't want to pay private individuals to perform the labor on state grounds. Instead, it is likely that the contractors hired to implement the project will donate the labor needed to install the storm water management practices.

Illinois Urban Manual (IUM) Update: Kelly Thompson stated that the steering committee had met to review practice standards. Some of them were approved and the Field Guide will be updated and available by September 2013. Being fairly new to the position, she has been busy attending different meetings and getting familiar with the different workgroups. Some of her time has been spent working on the Rain Garden engineering standards, meeting with IEPA and post-development workgroups, and attending steering committee meetings.

2012 Rural Landscape Workshop Update: Chris Davis stated she worked on an outreach workshop in November that addressed rural non-point source pollution. There were several partners that covered many different topics. Their website will have the information on the November workshop posted within the next week. She plans to do an urban non-point source pollution workshop, hopefully in 2014.

New Business

NACD Webinars: Co-Chairperson Jerry Snodgrass stated the NACD Natural Resource Policy Group has partnered with Scott's Miracle Grow to set up webinars available to everyone. Rich Nichols has or will send out an e-mail to advertise the webinars for those wishing to participate. There has also been a request from Council 16 to add someone to the NACD committee. Co-chairperson Snodgrass is checking to see if Co-Chairperson Fabrizius can be on it, as well as AISWCD employee Kelly Thompson.

IDOA Report: Joe Bybee stated the Winter Training featured four hours of CPESC training that was well received.

NRCS Report: Don McCallon stated that NRCS Chief White recently resigned and that Jason Weller is now serving as Acting Chief. The IASTC is now divided into Financial Programs and Easement Programs. The NRCS budget is still tight due to the continuing resolution. EQIP is having a sign-up period for air quality in 14 counties around St. Louis and Chicago. They are trying to get more approved. CSP won't have a ranking period until the Farm Bill passes.

IEPA Report: Chris Davis reported that Governor Quinn announced the Clean Water Initiative Program but funds aren't available to SWCDs yet. Section 319 guidance is being updated by IEPA, it is expected to be done early next year. Ms. Davis then handed out packets of a Power Point presentation on Non-point Source Pollution/Low Impact Development. This was the fifth category topic at the 2012 Envirothon. She went over the entire packet and discussed key points in the presentation such as urban storm water issues, post-development and construction standards, and various products and projects that were being used to control and preserve water quality.

IDNR Report: Renea Hildebrandt spoke about the Urban and Community Forestry Program that does various things like plant trees and hold ID workshops. She stated there is a tree benefit calculator online that is available to everyone. She also discussed the fact that there are too many maple trees being planted, and that nurseries and landowners should be encouraged to promote other species. The Emerald Ash Borer is still a problem, and it is difficult to remove Ash trees because they tend to break apart easily.

Adjournment: Barb Klinger motioned to adjourn the meeting at 4:38 p.m.
2nd by: Don Beisiegel Carried: Yes

Minutes taken by Julie Gillmore, AC, Menard County SWCD

Approved by:

Signature

Date

**AISWCD DECEMBER QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING:
DOT POINT HIGHLIGHTS - COMMUNICATION UPDATE:**

The AISWCD December Quarterly Board Meeting was held Monday & Tuesday, December 10 & 11, 2012 at the Northfield Inn Conference Center with 13 LUC representatives, 4 Officers, 3 Area Vice Presidents, 2 ISWCDEA Co-Chairs, the Auxiliary President and 4 AISWCD staff present for the Foundation & Board Meetings; there were 3 Officers, 3 Area VPs, the Past President, 4 AISWCD staff and 4 others present for the Executive Meeting.

ITEMS:

Partner Reports:

Steve Chard gave the report for IDOA.

Ivan Dozier was present on Monday for NRCS.

FSA sent a written report that was in the December QB Packet and Rick Braden was on hand on Tuesday to present the report.

IEPA report was presented by Christine Davis.

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

ISWCDEA: Betty Buckert spoke on behalf of the ISWCDEA.

SWCD Insurance: Annyce Winters introduced **Melissa Cauble** as the new **SWCD Insurance administrator to replace Debbie Holsapple**. Melissa reported with the November updated information; the October information is in the December QB Packet.

NCDEA: Cindy Moon reported.

NACD North Central Region: Jerry Snodgrass reported.

NACD Delegate: Jim Todd and Lonnie Wilson reported.

Committee Reports:

Executive Committee: Lonnie Wilson reported and noted there were action items from the Executive Meeting that would be handled by the FACs that were assigned.

Forestry Committee: David McCormick reported they would like to invite partners for an informational meeting; **this was voted on and approved by the Board**; reported the Forestry committee would like feedback on the Forestry Committee's role regarding partners and discussion followed.

AISWCD Auxiliary: Marie Bunting reported that she would be stepping down as NACD Auxiliary President after this year's Annual Meeting in San Antonio, Texas. She also noted her brother, Gene Schmidt, would be stepping down as NACD President. She said there would be a quilt again this year and passed around an envelope for the sale of tickets.

Mississippi and Il River Coordinating Councils: Lee Bunting and Rich Nichols reported.

Focus Area Committee Reports:

Communications: Steve Stierwalt reported on how to better utilize Land Use Councils and what is proper use of Land Use Councils. The AISWCD is looking into software such as “Go to Meeting” to use for meetings; need to make LUC meetings important enough for Directors to want to attend; possibly have director training at LUC meetings; come up with agenda items to be discussed at LUC mtgs and then voted on and brought to the AISWCD Board Meeting each time; discussion about how to get Farm Bureau back as Partner and to give support for District funding; suggestions to ask each County to make contact with their local Farm Bureau office to seek a resolution through Farm Bureau policy, this needs to include Extension, 4-H, County Fairs, etc. Action was to have Steve Stierwalt and Tom Beyers to prepare a resolution to send out to counties and discuss with LUCs.

Education: Jerry Snodgrass reported there is still a few kinks in the FFA participation in the Il Envirothon; they want more participation in the Teacher of the Year application process and were reviewing the application to update the contents so that the AISWCD could have a teacher for the elementary and the high school to be winners. Valerie Keener, Education spokesperson, for IDNR will make up a draft notice and once it is approved by the committee send it out to schools. **This was voted and passed by Board.**

Financial: Kenny Vosholler reported the financial FAC reviewed 4 bids and selected Westworks’ bid for website re-design for \$1600.00, **Board approved;** reviewed 3 audit bids and selected Pehlman & Dold for a 3 year contract-FY ’12-\$4500; FY ’13-\$4,650; FY ’14-\$4,800-**Board approved;** reported \$4,000 to be added to a line item to FY 2013 Budget for \$2500 for AISWCD President expenses and \$1500.00 for Vice President expenses, **Board approved;** reported \$1000 to add to budget line item for Vehicle maintenance for AISWCD Van repairs, **Board approved;** reported AISWCD staff bonuses with no raises at this time, **Board approved bonuses;** to increase Kelly Thompson, IUM program coordinator 3% to be discussed at March 2013 QB meeting. **Board approved updated AISWCD FY 2012 & 2013 Budgets & December Financials.**

Legislative & Resolutions: Tom Beyers reported funding will be the priority with progress in getting the word out to Legislators; still working on getting support from co-hearts about prevailing wage waiver; discussion about Farm Bureau support and working with Steve Stierwalt from Communication FAC to go through the Resolution process to send up the line for Lonnie at their Annual Meeting next year to garner their support and we need to stress that it is not a gaming bill but a funding bill that includes others such as Extension, County Fairs, and others; still push to present this to the local Farm

Legislative & Resolutions (continued): Bureau at the District levels; Lonnie asked Steve & Tom to work on resolution and ask Farm Bureau for assistance in drafting it; regarding Strategic Planning goals, we are on target; Resolutions from 2012 Annual Meeting, 2012-1 is now mute since Lab was shut down; other Resolutions were reported on and will have updated information at each QB meeting until FY 2013 Annual Meeting and will possibly have session on the progress of the updates; the by-laws change did not go through but was changed to dues variance and all Districts have that update; talking points to Districts about Farm Bureau as partner; discussion about new money stream ideas and the committee will follow up on this after the veto session is completed.

Planning: Van Bitner was absent from FAC meeting so Tom Beyers reported the FY 2013 Annual Meeting date and location had been selected by the Planning & Awards Taskforce committee and it will be held on July 22 and 23, 2013 at the Northfield Inn, Suites & Conference Center. Reporting from the December FAC meeting, the committee had selected the theme to be: "Can you hear us now?" and the logo would use a photo depicting the dust bowl from which we were established and a current photo of how conservation has evolved; **Board approved.**

Urban Community & Conservation: Jerry Snodgrass reported he was going to turn the update over to Kelly Thompson; she reported on the IUM updates and the workgroups. Her official report was handed out to members.

Executive Director Report: Rich Nichols stated for everyone to see the handout.

Area V.P. Reports:

The 3 AREA VPs present did not have anything to report.

June '12 Board Meeting Minutes: were approved by Board.

Old Business:

Dues/Delinquent Dues Status: Sherry Finn reported there were ten (10) Districts "not in good standing" for FY 2012 as of December 7, 2012. Four (4) Districts that have not paid any FY 2012 Dues and they are Gallatin, Pope-Hardin, Randolph, and Scott; One (1) District that has not paid the 2nd half of dues and that is Adams; Four (4) Districts that have not paid the remainder of 3rd Quarter and all of 4th Quarter dues and they are Boone, Greene, Hamilton, and Jefferson. One (1) District paid \$300-Pike. The total dues outstanding for FY 2012 are \$9,545.13. Sherry Finn reported the first allocation of operating funds for FY 2013 had been paid to Districts on November 8, 2012 and the amount was \$12,041.00;

Dues/Delinquent Dues Status (continued): Dues invoices had been sent out on November 30, 2012 via e-mail to all Districts for \$361.23 to be paid by December 30, 2012; there is no word on when the next allocation will be available. FY 2013 Delinquent notices for Nov. dues invoice will not go out until the middle of January 2013.

AISWCD President Appointed Taskforce for SWCD Dues Structure and District Funding Update: Terry Davis reported there was no official recommendation at this time and President Lonnie Wilson suspended the taskforce committee until funding is determined.

FY 2012-2013 EPA Grant updates: Rich Nichols reported Wade Louis, Acting CREP Program Manager was at the Executive Committee meeting on Monday to give a presentation about the new CREP contracts and CREP Resource Specialists and noted the program is trying to get the biggest bang for the grant bucks. Rich reported the AISWCD has hired five (5) CREP Resource Specialists that started November 1, 2012 and are being housed in IL River Basin Districts (Brown, LaSalle, McDonough, Peoria & Schuyler) with a sixth one to begin work on January 1, 2013 and housed in Sangamon County. Rich also noted that the Great Rivers Research and Education group had a contract with IDNR & IEPA for the Kaskaskia River Basin to hire four (4) CREP Resource Specialists to be housed in DeWitt, Fayette, Madison and Sangamon Counties. There will be CREP training for Districts and the new CREP Resource Specialists on December 18, 2012 at the Springfield Conference Room at IEPA. Everyone is encouraged to attend that is a District with a CREP contract with IDNR.

AISWCD Website Bids: reported and voted on during Financial FAC report.
AISWCD Area IVP Alternate Replacement: LUCs 1, 2 & 16 voted on **Chuck Hanley from Livingston County. Board accepted.**
AISWCD Plan of Work: reported on during Legislative FAC report.
AISWCD New Money/Revenue Stream Ideas: reported on during Legislative FAC report.

FY 2013 State Budget: **Rich Nichols** reported nothing was happening at this time until Legislators make all the changes; but we are off the GRF line of the state budget.

FY 2012 64th AISWCD Annual Meeting Resolutions Update/Variance: reported on during the Legislative FAC report.

AISWCD FY 2013 Quarterly Board Meeting: Dates/Location/Expenses: the board will meet for a one day meeting in March (Tuesday, 3-12-13) at the Northfield starting at 9:00 a.m. with the Executive Committee meeting on March 11, 2013 at the IDOA Conference Room 1 at 1:00 p.m.; June QB meeting will be two days (Monday-6-10-13 & Tuesday-6-11-13) at the Northfield Inn; September meeting will only take place if needed; December QB meeting will be two days (Monday, 12-9-13 & Tuesday-12-10-13) at the Northfield Inn; **Dates/Location/Expenses (continued):** only the meals will be paid for the members, all other expenses are the members responsibility.

New Business:

NACD Annual Mtg-San Antonio, Texas: No national resolutions will come from Illinois; AISWCD is receiving Director Training Certification award again this year (will be a pin-plaque was received last year); photo (3 youth and 4 adult) and poster (5) entries have been submitted; Kenny Vosholler will be the Annual Meeting scholarship attendee this year; Lonnie Wilson asked all Districts and/or LUCs to submit a small item to him (that represents their area) for submission for the auction; and **the Board approved Lonnie Wilson as delegate and Tom Beyers as Alternate Delegate for the meeting.**
NACD North Central Meeting-Chicago, IL: Lonnie Wilson and Tom Beyers will be attending this meeting in January for the AISWCD.

AISWCD Driveway Maintenance: pervious driveway at the AISWCD office is cracking and breaking up in a couple of spots; Rich Nichols was told by the Board to contact the contractor and see what our options are for repair.

AISWCD Van Maintenance Bids: there were two (2) bids and the decision for the repairs was made during the Financial FAC report.

AISWCD FY 2012-2014 Auditor Bids: there were fifteen (15) auditors contacted for bids and only three (3) submitted bids. The selection was made during the Financial FAC report.

Approval FY 2012 AISWCD Updated Budget; FY 2013 AISWCD Budget & December AISWCD monthly financials: this was reported on and approved by Board during the Financial FAC report.

The meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

USDA- IL FSA Conservation and Environmental Programs Division

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

Legislation ended September 30, 2012 and we currently have no authority to accept applications or approve CRP contracts due to the farm bill expiring. Our county offices continue to work with producers on current contracts performing ownership and acreage revisions that will not result in an additional obligation of funds.

Emergency Conservation Program for Severe Drought

Another program that was implemented last summer was the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP). Farms and ranches in approved counties that experienced severe drought conditions this past summer were eligible for cost-share assistance under ECP. Currently a total of \$451,000 has been allocated to approved counties. The damage must have been so severe that water available for livestock or orchards and vineyards had been reduced below normal to the extent that neither could survive without additional water.

Illinois Envirothon Quarterly Report

March 2013

Plans for the 2013 Illinois Envirothon are well underway. Both myself, and Natalie are excited to be working on this program again this year. The following are updates about what is going on with the contest.

- The contest will be held on May 1-2, 2013 at 4-H Memorial Camp at Allerton Park in Monticello, as it has in the past. The camp has already confirmed the dates to work out for them.
- The 2013 Canon Envirothon will be held August 4-9, 2013 at Montana State University in Bozeman, Montana.
- The 5th category current issue topic this year is going to be “Sustainable Rangeland Management: Achieving a balance between Traditional Agricultural Uses with Non-Agricultural uses on Montana Rangelands”
- The 5th category information packets were completed and available online the first full week in January after Natalie returned from maternity leave. Packets were emailed out to everyone January 10th.
- Natalie and I presented at Winter Training to update everyone on this year’s competition.
- There will still be no mini grants available for 2013.
- As far as sponsors for this year’s completion, we have contacted the following sponsors over the past few months. Pheasants Forever has is talking with state leadership about again donating \$1500.00 for the state contest this year. Letters went out to the all of the Districts asking for sponsorships. To date, we have received \$350 from the following Districts:, Williamson, , Winnebago, and Washington. Illinois Farm Bureau has also given us \$900. The Illinois Headwaters RC&D has also donated \$500. We are receiving new donations from Districts daily. I am in the process of applying for grants and sponsorships from the following: ADM, IL American Water, IEPA, 1st Farm Credit Services, Ladies’ Auxiliary, Cargill, and Pioneer. If anyone has any personal contacts with anyone or any businesses that we could talk to about sponsorships, we would appreciate any assistance. Sometimes it is easier to contact someone when you have a personal relationship with them.
- The 5th Category test for each council to use for their contests is in the process of being completed and will be sent to all the LUC contacts.
- We are in the process of lining up judges for Friday. Many have already confirmed and we are in good shape.
- All the presenters have been confirmed.
- The registration and volunteer packets have been updated and sent to Sherry and are available online for volunteers to complete.
- Brooke has begun working on awards for this year. It looks like they will probably be similar to what they were last year.

If anyone knows of any other possible funding sources for the contest, please do not hesitate to let either myself or Natalie know or let the Association know and they will forward us the information.

Sincerely,

Brooke

Brooke Baker

Natalie

Natalie Mahler

Illinois Soil & Water Conservation District Employee

This winter has found the ISWCDEA going through a challenging transitional period. We have many new officers as well as regional representatives. We struggle with the loss of past board members and 59 employee's experiences, expertise, and knowledge. But life goes on and with our enthusiasm and determination we feel we can make this Board one of the best on record. The SWCD employees are strong and passionate about the SWCD purpose and we will survive!

We got our feet wet with the Field Office of the Future National webinar with NRCS, RC&D, NASCA, and NCDEA recapping activities from various states per each state's proposal. Each state is diverse and a laboratory for conservation. A common thread was that first and foremost the customers are our #1 concern and more face contact with customers will help get conservation on the land. Many felt more time needs to be spent in the field providing technical assistance while using this technology effectively, possibly reducing our foot print by using a mobile environment. Others felt we should be more diligent, efficient, effective, economical, and flexible. Use of common sense would help eliminate oversights and over control. Communication and keeping everyone informed is the key to our local partnership presence and our conservation delivery that serves the farmers. We should NOT promote frustration but promote education. Farmers are the best stewards and their hearts are in it!

A Farm Progress Show planning committee has been established and is working with AISWCD for the Ag Partners Conservation Tent. SWCD's are entrusted with protecting far more than a resource; we are protecting a way of live. We will be educating young people as well as adults about the importance of agriculture and conservation.

ISWCDEA has joined a taskforce, along with AISWCD and NRCS, to update our current Memorandum of Understanding. Everyone is working together to accomplish a unified goal with a cooperative partner relationship.

Summer Conference training Sessions are currently being planned. Employee and Director sessions will be both interesting and informative. All sessions will be open for anyone so please make plans to attend.

We are just beginning preparations for a Legislative Day at the Capital. Our associates and partners have joined our efforts to communicate how vitally important the SWCDs are. We must protect and conserve the Illinois soil, water, and related resources!

The ISWCDEA is committed to providing quality information, communication, education, training, and representation to all district personnel. We appreciate the Directors encouraging their employee's participating and providing them the funds to do so. We would also like to encourage the Directors to get involved, get others involved, and stay involved.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Buckert, AC Co-Chair
Kara Downin, RC Co-Chair

NCDEA

AISWCD March 2013 Quarterly Board Update

The NCDEA Board met for two board meetings during the NACD Annual Meeting in San Antonio, Texas, and addressed a long agenda of action and planning items.

A new board member from the Southwest region, Jeri Trebelcock, attended and assumed her duties.

The board worked on two grant deliverables, one including collecting case studies of successful conservation projects, and one involving multiple environmental benefits on the same land.

The 2012 officers, Irene Moore, Pam Hawkins, Bryan Evans, and Tim Riley were re-elected for a second year term. Rhonda Vetsch, Northern Plains Region was re-elected as member-at-large of the Executive Committee.

The NCDEA hosted tours were quite successful squiring three busloads of folks to two sites and including a box lunch which received a rating from some, as the best box lunch they had ever had.

The NCDEA hosted workshop also continued a successful tradition of providing ideas and examples on how to make your district stronger.

At the annual luncheon the new officers and the full board were sworn in by Past President Connie Richmeier and Past Past Past President Robert Dobbs.

Also at the luncheon two district employees and one district supervisor were recognized as national award winners.

NCDEA Board members served in a number of volunteer slots to help support the NACD meeting including serving as moderators for most of the breakout sessions. The NACD meeting was also quite successful and included an increase in registrants over last year plus an excellent program and related events. New NACD officers and Executive Board members were also elected.

A special meeting to assist the North American Envirothon with stronger funding for the future was held. NCDEA President Irene Moore was asked to serve on a special committee representing district employees along with NACD, The National Conservation Foundation, and The NACD Presidents Association, to help develop a plan for the future.

SWCD of Illinois Insurance Plan Administrator's Report to AISWCD January 2013

COBRA – As of January 31, 2013, we have 2 participants in COBRA; one who is a former employee and one is a director's spouse. A third participant, a former employee, will go on COBRA beginning February 1, for just one month while awaiting coverage from his new employer. One COBRA election notice was mailed to a departing employee. No COBRA initial notices were mailed.

Administration – Administration included processing January 2013 invoices and processing 2 COBRA invoices. The CMS February billing reflected 163 participants in our health care plan. The participants include 130 participants in a managed care program, 16 participants in the LGHP (Local or Quality Care) program and 17 have waived coverage. I added one new employee, removed two departing employees, and had one employee with reduced hours. There were six employees who were included in a special enrollment period. One lost coverage with Coventry due to the company ending services in the county where the employee's physician was located and the others lost their coverage with Health Alliance Illinois because their contract with the state was not renewed. All have selected new health care providers and the changes were effective February 1.

Financials – Income for January was \$47,336.23 with expenses totaling \$142,596.87 resulting in a net loss of \$96,260.64. The checkbook balance in the insurance account as of January 31, 2012 was \$978,042.30 with \$.13 cents in accounts receivable. Billings have been received and paid as follows for February:

CMS	\$ 135,131.00
The Standard	\$ 4,389.98

Thank you,
Melissa Cauble
Montgomery County SWCD