

Association of Illinois Soil & Water Conservation Districts

65th Annual Business Meeting

Tuesday, July 23rd, 2013

9:00 am – 12:05 pm

Northfield Inn & Conference Center

Springfield, Illinois

Meeting was called to order by AISWCD President, Lonnie Wilson at 9:00 am. The **Invocation** was given by AISWCD Secretary Van Bitner. Attendees then recited the Pledge of Allegiance, led by Tom Beyers.

Roll Call

Secretary Van Bitner gave the first roll call. The following eight counties were absent and ineligible to vote: **Adams, Gallatin, Greene, Jefferson, Pike, Pope-Hardin, Randolph, Scott**. Absent from the initial roll call were voting delegates from the following eligible counties: **Bond, Boone, Bureau, Calhoun, Cass, Clay, Douglas, Fayette, Fulton, Grundy, Hamilton, Iroquois, Jasper, Jersey, Johnson, Kendall, Knox, Logan, Macon, Massac, McHenry/Lake, Monroe, Moultrie, North Cook, Shelby, Stark, Vermilion, Williamson**. Van Bitner reported there was a quorum.

Introductions

Howard Heavner, introduced himself as Parliamentarian, and announced to the group the meeting would follow the guidelines set forth in Roberts Rules of Order. President Wilson introduced the AISWCD officers.

Auction Proceeds

Kenny Vosholler, Treasurer, reported the auction proceeds from Monday night's auction totaled \$6,182.00.

Introduction of AISWCD Staff

Rich Nichols, AISWCD Executive Director introduced the AISWCD staff, and their roles.

Approve District Voting Delegate Rules

Motion to approve the rules governing the meeting outlined in the delegate packet made by Macoupin County, seconded by Wayne County. MCVV.

Approval of Minutes

President Lonnie Wilson asked the voting delegates to approve the 2012 Annual Meeting Minutes listed on page 5-9 in the voting delegate packet. **Motion was made by Sangamon County, seconded by Henderson County to approve the 2012 Annual Meeting Minutes. MCVV.**

Approval of 2012-2013 Board Meeting Minutes

President Lonnie Wilson asked the voting delegates to approve the 2012-2013 Board Meeting Minutes listed on pages 10-33 in the voting delegate packet. **Motion was made by Montgomery County, seconded by DeKalb County to approve the 2012-2013 Board Meeting Minutes. MCVV.**

Roll Call

Second Roll Call was completed by Secretary Van Bitner. The following eight counties were absent and ineligible to vote: **Adams, Gallatin, Greene, Jefferson, Pike, Pope-Hardin, Randolph, Scott.** Absent from the second roll call were voting delegates from the following eligible counties: **Bond, Boone, Bureau, Calhoun, Clay, Douglas, Fayette, Fulton, Grundy, Hamilton, Jasper, Jersey, Johnson, Kendall, Knox, Logan, Macon, Massac, McHenry/Lake, Monroe, North Cook, Shelby, Stark, Vermilion, Williamson.** There were 64 voting delegates in attendance.

Partner Reports

IEPA – Marcia Willhite, Chief of Bureau of Water of IEPA, gave the report. Marcia talked about how IEPA has worked in partnership together for many years. Marcia reiterated how many Soil & Water Conservation Districts had been key partners in many of the Section 319 grants. These are very often used to demonstrate best management practices in rural and urban areas. Marcia talked about the recent tour that was held for over 300 people in Livingston County. She also touched on the 319 Grant with AISWCD in providing Crep Resource Specialists for different LUC counties. Marcia thanked SWCD's for all they do to help the environment and particularly their part in IEPA sponsored projects.

ISWCDEA – Betty Buckert and Kara Downin, ISWCDEA Co-Chairs, gave the report. Betty reported the ISWCDEA currently represent approximately 177 employees from 97 districts. All regional representative positions on the ISWCDEA board have been filled. Betty talked about working in conjunction with AISWCD on the Legislative Day, the upcoming Farm Progress Show, sessions being held at Summer Conference, and upcoming Winter Training. An online Employee Handbook will be unveiled soon. Kara Downin urged everyone to buy a 50/50 raffle ticket, if they have not already. The raffle sponsors the ISWCDEA scholarship. Kara reported the ISWCDEA will soon be selling plastic license plate frames. Kara expressed the directors for their support and involvement.

IDOA – Jared Thornley gave the report for IDOA. Jared shared information on the budget and funding. The Illinois General Assembly and the Governor approved the budget for 3 million dollars for district operations, and 4.5 million for cost-share projects for fiscal year 2014. IDOA also provided a written report which is on page 55 of the AISWCD delegate packet.

IDNR – Jim Herkert, Director of the office of Resource Conservation gave the report. Jim showed a flow chart for DNR/Office of Resource Conservation and presented a slide presentation of accomplishments on different programs and talked about those programs, including the Crep Program. Jim thanked the districts for their work, and looks forward to working with them in the future.

NRCS - Ivan Dozier, NRCS State Conservationist, gave the report. Ivan gave program numbers for some of the different programs, but reminded those in attendance the total figures would not be in until the end of the fiscal year. Ivan reported he was a little disappointed in the Mississippi River Basin Initiative. NRCS has also provided a written report which is on pages 58-59 of the AISWCD delegate packet.

Auxiliary - Marie Bunting gave the report. Marie ask attendees to come out to the silent auction table during the break and bid on items, and also buy raffle tickets and snacks. Marie stated the Auxiliary needs to perk up. She asks the districts to please go back, talk to their directors, and get the spouses involved. Marie announced a new officer, Judy Beyers. Marie stated there were only four people who showed up on Monday for the Mary Kay demonstration. There was very poor turnout at the childrens activities. She asked the directors to bring their spouses along to the next Summer Conference. Marie thanks AISWCD for all they do.

NACD and NACD North Central – Tim Palmer, Executive Board Member from Iowa, and the North Central Representative for NACD gave the report. Tim reported there would be a North Central meeting next July in Indianapolis. Tim reported he was elected in February, and looked forward to the chance to follow in the footsteps of some of the leadership from Illinois, and to work with those relationships he has built over the last few years. Tim stated he understood Earl Garber had given a pretty thorough report yesterday on NACD. Tim touched on the Farm Bill. Tim gave some background on himself and his experience as a commissioner in Iowa.

FSA – No Report.

NCDEA – No Report.

Resolutions

Vice President Tom Beyers announced the resolutions as presented on pages 88 – 89 in the AISWCD voting delegate packet. Vice President Beyers reviewed each resolutions approval to the delegate body.

2013-1 Policy Book

Discussion – Champaign County – At the directors’ forum it was pointed out that the policy as proposed, with changes made on the screen, the last line, “the Policy Book will guide staff and directors each year, and it will further resolve that the task force made to examine the AISWCD’s Bylaws be charged with the task of developing a process whereby existing resolutions that are no longer applicable can by resolution of the body be rescinded.” Champaign County also reported, Piatt County, who submitted the resolution is on board with the change. **Motion to get resolution on the floor was made by Champaign County, seconded by Dewitt County. MCVV.**

Further Discussion - **Washington** County spoke in favor of the resolution as amended.

DeKalb County questioned if the name should be Policy Book. They felt it should be call Resolution Book.

Motion from DeKalb County to amend resolution to strike the word policy and replace it with resolution, second by Henry County. Discussion of proposed amendment – Champaign County spoke in opposition of the amendment. Henry County – Gave input in favor of name change amendment: To avoid confusion between resolution and policy, most of the resolutions have to do with legislation; the name change to resolution book would be less confusing for everyone. Warren County – Once a year, we review our annual plan of work without adopting a new set of rules such a policy book. Wayne County- They don’t really think the AISWCD is trying to change policy when they make a resolution. **A vote was taken on the amendment only, to change the name from policy to resolution book. MCCV, 52 voting yes. The amendment passed. The resolution will now be called the Resolution Book. A vote was taken on the resolution itself, as amended. MCCV.**

2013-2 Sales Tax Relief for Cover Crops Resolution

Discussion – Tom Beyers reported they had taken the liberty to change the word crap to crop in the next to the last paragraph, last sentence, since it was a typographical error. Unanimous consent was given for the correction of the spelling. **Motion was made by Montgomery County, second by Christian County to pass the resolution as amended with correct spelling.** Warren County – **Made a motion to amend the resolution to change the word relief to exemption, seconded by Christian County. Vice President Beyers called for the question on the amendment only. MCCV.** Discussion on amended resolution – none. **Vice President Beyers called for the question on the amended resolution – MCCV.**

Vice President Beyers called for any resolutions from the floor. There were none.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

There was no new business.

Election of Officers

President Lonnie Wilson, ask Terry Davis, Warren County, and Nominating Committee Chairperson, to come forward and submit the slate of officers for 2013-2014 year. Terry Davis presented the slate as follows:

Tom Beyers, Marion County, to serve a one year term as Vice-President. There were no nominations from the floor. The Nominating Committee Chair ask that Tom Beyers name be on the slate for the office of Vice-President. Van Bitner, Mason County, to serve a one year term for Secretary. There were no nominations from the floor. The Nominating Committee Chair ask that Van Bitner's name be put on the slate for the office of Secretary. Kenny Vosholler, Perry County, to serve a one year term for Treasurer. There were no nominations from the floor. The Nominating Committee Chair ask Kenny Vosholler's name be put on the slate for the office of Treasurer. **A motion was made by Marion County, seconded by Stephenson County, to cast a unanimous vote for the above slate. MCVV.**

Area Vice President Elections

Vice President Tom Beyers stated Area 1 and Area 3 have elections in odd years. Areas met to hold elections, results were as follows:

Area 1 – Jerry Snodgrass (Henry County)

Alternate – Chuck Hanley

Area 3 – Steve Stierwalt (Champaign County)

Alternate – Kenny Hawthorne (Ford County)

Audit Report

The Audit Report was given by Tim Cravens, auditor. The audit report can be found on page 39-40 of the AISWCD Delegate Packet. **Motion by Sinclair County, second by Macoupin County to accept auditors report. MCVV.**

Officers Reports

President – President Lonnie Wilson gave his report. He felt the officers had done a great job this year. Goals were set, and met. President Wilson touched on Legislative Day, and its success. Crep CRS positions were discussed. The President’s written report can be found on pages 44-45 of the AISWCD Delegate Packet.

Vice President - Vice-President Tom Beyers gave his report. He re-emphasized how well the Sunday afternoon tour was received and complimented Terry Nichols and Sangamon SWCD for all their great work. Vice-President Beyers stressed the importance of weighing in on a bill electronically. He touched on legislative awareness and NACD, and ask for the districts backing of NACD, who work on securing NRCS funds. Beyers also discussed Nutrient Management.

Treasurer – Treasurer Kenny Vosholler gave the report and reviewed pages 41-43 in the AISWCD Delegate Packet. **A motion was made by Sinclair County, seconded by Effingham County to approve the AISWCD budget. Discussion – None. MCVV. A motion was made by Livingston, seconded by Montgomery to approve the financial management report. MCVV.**

Secretary – Van Bitner ask everyone to fill out their conference surveys. Lonnie ask for a motion to approve the Planning Committee Report as part of Van Bitner’s report. **A motion was made by Morgan County, seconded by Henderson County to approve the Planning Committee Report. MCVV.**

Executive Director – Rich Nichols, Executive Director, reported his written report is on pages 46-47 of the AISWCD Voting Delegate Packet. Rich impressed on the importance of partners. Rich urged attendees to let legislators know that soil conservation is an important issue and that you support funding, and you support programs, and that you would ask for their votes in supporting these things.

Comments from Focus Area Committee Chairpersons

Communications – Steve Stierwalt gave the report, and also impressed upon contacting legislators. Steve touched on the email list for directors and also the new AISWCD website. Communications report is on page 48 of the AISWCD Delegate Voting Packet. **Motion by Christian County, second by Macoupin to approve report. MCVV.**

Education - Jerry Snodgrass gave report. Jerry urged district directors to promote the “Teacher of the Year Award.” Education report on pages 49-51 of AISWCD Voting Delegate Packet. **Motion by Sinclair County, second by Sangamon County to approved Education Report. MCVV.**

Executive – Submitted reports are in the AISWCD Voting Delegate Voting Packet. **Motion was made by Montgomery County, second by Effingham County to approve the Executive Reports as submitted with Quarterly Board Minutes in the AISWCD Voting Delegate Packet. MCVV.**

Financial – Approval submitted with Treasurer’s Report (see above).

Forestry – David McCormick announced the “Call Before You Cut” packets are available in the hall for pickup, along with two posters. David also reported there would be a tour at the Ray Herman farm around the 1st of October. Forestry reports are on pages 63-69 of the AISWCD Voting Delegate Packet.

Motion to approve forestry report was made by Marion County, second by Wayne County. MCVV.

Legislative - Tom Beyers reported everything was covered in his Vice-President Report, and Quarterly Board reports included in the AISWCD Voting Delegate Packet. **Motion to approve the Legislative Reports was made by Coles County, seconded by Effingham County. MCVV.**

Planning – Written report can be found on page 48 of AISWCD Voting Delegate Packet. **Motion to approve the report was made by Effingham, second by Morgan. MCVV.**

Urban Community & Conservation – Gerald Fabrizio gave the report. Detailed report can be found on Page 54 of the AISWCD Voting Delegate Packet. **Motion by Cumberland County, seconded by Henderson County. MCVV.**

Adjournment

Motion made by Morgan County to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Henderson County. MCVV.

The meeting adjourned at 12:05 pm.

Minutes submitted by: Cindy Moon, McDonough County SWCD &

Sherry Finn, AISWCD Administrative Assistant