

**Communications Focus Area Committee
Meeting Minutes
AISWCD Quarterly Board
Northfield Inn, Springfield, IL
December 9, 2013**

Members/Advisors Present:

Angela Biggs, NRCS
Sue Davis
Dan Doedtman
Dan Duval
Amy Ishmael
Ken Kesler
Kenny Vosholler
Tom Beyers
Rich Nichols
Kelly Thompson

Members/Advisors Absent:

Tom Anderson
Carlyn Light
Mark Roth
Sarah Seelbach, IEPA
Steve Stierwalt, Chairman

Kenny Vosholler called the meeting to order in the absence of Chairman Steve Stierwalt.

Approve the Agenda- A motion was made by Tom Beyers and seconded by Dan Duval to approve the Agenda as presented, motion carried.

Approval of June 10, 2013 minutes- A motion was made by Dan Duval and seconded by Ken Kesler to approve the June 10, 2013 meeting minutes as presented, motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

LUC Meeting Role Update-Rich Nichols reported that he had worked on putting information about Land Use Council role for Directors in the Director Training modules. He plans to look into this further and report back at the next meeting. He stated that many years ago IDOA used LUC meetings as a Training location for Director Training and that worked well for many years. That has not been done recently. Tom Beyers stated that the DOT POINTS that Sherry sends out after each Quarterly Board meeting should be on the Agenda for Land Use Council meetings. It was stated that the AISWCD By-laws do not say anything about how LUC's should operate.

Farm Bureau Resolution Update-Rich Nichols and Steve Chard attended a Farm Bureau SWAT (Strength With Advisory Teams) meeting in August and each one of them had a ½ hour to speak about the need for dedicated funding for Districts. They voted to take a Resolution to the Farm Bureau Annual Meeting in Chicago which is going on today and try and get it passed. It was stated there may be an update tomorrow before the full board.

Director Email Listing and Action Alerts Update-Rich Nichols stated they got 14 Director's email addresses for the Action Alerts and 6 Directors telephone numbers for Texts for Action Alerts. He would like to see more Directors added to this group. This Action Alert was just used recently to get phone calls to Rep. Rodney Davis about Farm Bill Compliance.

Social Media/AISWCD Website Update-Kelly Thompson reported that the new AISWCD website is completed and was used quite often during the Government Shut-down. Also, the Facebook page is kept updated and was a great resource during the Government Shut-down also. The Illinois All will continue to work during any Shut-down and Directors/Employees can subscribe and un-subscribe at any time. Home email addresses can be added to the Illinois All also.

Affiliate Memberships- Kelly Thompson reported there are 5 members and 3 or 4 Affiliate Members. Gina Bean sent out postcards about the memberships. This membership is tax deductible. Kelly plans to order lapel pins for the Affiliate Members.

NEW BUSINESS –NONE

A motion was made by Ken Kesler and seconded by Dan Doedtman, motion carried.

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