

**December Quarterly Board  
December 10, 2013  
Northfield Inn & Suites, Springfield, Illinois**

**Present**

Lonnie Wilson, President  
Tom Beyers, Vice President  
Van Bitner, Secretary  
Kenny Vosholler, Treasurer  
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  
Daniel Doedtman, Council 10  
Steve Fulling, Council 11  
Don Beisiegel, Council 12  
Roger Johnson, Council 13  
Gerard Fabrizio, Council 16  
Marie Bunting, Auxiliary President  
Sondra Baker, ISWCDEA AC Co-Chair  
Kara Downin, ISWCDEA RC Co-Chair (Left Early)  
Rich Nichols, AISWCD  
Sherry Finn, AISWCD  
Kelly Thompson, AISWCD  
Gina Bean, AISWCD

**Absent**

Jerry Snodgrass, Area 1 VP  
Carlyn Light, Area IV VP  
Joe Rothermel, Council 7  
Darrell Roegge, Council 8  
Mark Roth, Council 9  
Tom Anderson, Council 14  
Dale Shumaker, Council 15  
Mike Hoffman, Lobbyist

**Call to Order**

Lonnie Wilson, AISWCD President called the meeting to order at 8:25 am.

**Roll Call**

Roll call was taken by Secretary Van Bitner.

**Approve Agenda**

The agenda was reviewed. **Motion to approve agenda was made by Tom Beyers, seconded by Dan Duval. MCVV.**

**Partner Reports**

**IDOA (Steve Chard)** – Steve Chard reported the National No-Till Conference would be held in Springfield at the Hilton Hotel January 15 – 18, and passed around a copy of the agenda to board members. Steve reported there will be Conservation Cropping Seminars throughout the state on January 28, February 27, and March 13. The 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter of District Operations funds should have been received in all district offices. Steve complimented the employees on a successful Winter Training held the week before. Steve touched on the numerous energy projects that are going through Illinois without any benefit to Illinois, and the concern that is happening within the agriculture community. IDOA written report on page 50-51 of Quarterly Board packet and is attached to the minutes.

**NRCS**— Report was given by Ivan Dozier, State Conservationist. Ivan touched on the shutdown. He reported they were caught up on pretty much everything except Labor Relations Union meeting that was scheduled for December 10, but was cancelled. Ivan brought up the budget for FY14, which he received last week. Right now there is no authority to work on contribution agreements because there is no work on CRP. The Farm Bill expired the end of September. We are approaching deadlines for some of the price support issues that are coming up at the end of the month that could affect the prices of milk, etc. NRCS written report is attached to these minutes.

**FSA** — Rick Graden gave the FSA report. Illinois FSA is struggling with the staffing level. The current ceiling 416 employees. Illinois will be twenty people under that at the end of January, and they are in a hiring freeze. Illinois, Iowa, and Nebraska are the most understaffed. FSA written report on page 52 of the Quarterly Board packet and is attached to the minutes.

**IEPA** - Dick Breckenridge has nothing other than to wish everyone a merry Christmas. IEPA will be giving a slide presentation at the end of the board meeting.

**IFA** — Bill Gradle gave a report on behalf of the Illinois Forestry Association of which he is now President. Bill introduced a Purple Paint Sign (No trespassing). The IFA will donate one to the AISWCD Auction. Bill explained you could paint the perimeter of the trees entering the property with a purple strip that could be used also. He directed the board towards the IFA website for more information or to buy a sign (information attached). Bill passed out a handout of the Illinois Forestry Association directory to board members. Bill touched on the Farm Bill and Title 11 Sec 1240B of the current Farm Bill, which directs the Secretary, through NRCS, to allocate 60% of available Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) funding towards practices relating to livestock production. Rationale: The NRCS State Conservationist, with input from their respective State Technical Committees, should have the authority to direct available funding towards their resource concerns in each State. Though this is a "national" goal, the last two years, it has been mandatory for NRCS in each State to decide their priorities in address resource concerns and issues.

**DNR** — No report.

**ISWCDEA** — Sondra Baker and Kara Downin, ISWCDEA Co-Chairs, gave the report. Sondra and Kara talked about Winter Training, which has 150 attendees. ISWCDEA written report is on page 55 of the packet and is attached to the minutes. Kenny Vosholler presented the Employee Association with their share of the proceeds from the AISWCD auction.

**NCDEA** — Cindy Moon reported in observance of time she would forego giving an oral report, and directed board members to her written report on page 53 of the packet.

**NACD & NACD North Central** –Lonnie Wilson gave a brief report. Lonnie reported there would be a meeting in Chicago in January and would be presenting a bylaw amendment on the election cycle rules for NACD. There are no resolutions that Lonnie knows of yet. Lonnie ask for input or concerns. **A motion was made by Gerard Fabrizius, second by Terry Bogner to carry a resolution forward to North Central that states to recommend that the artificial ratio established in the 2008 Farm Bill be abandoned and replaced with language that will allow the NRCS state Conservationist with the advice of the state technical committee determine the state's priorities for utilizing available EQIP dollars to achieve the most effective and efficient means of protecting the state's natural resources based on the USDA survey required by Federal law. MCVV.**

Discussion was held on delegate /alternate appointments . **A motion was made by Terry Davis, seconded by Don Beisiegel to affirm the appointments of Lonnie Wilson as delegate, and Tom Beyers as alternate for the North Central NACD. MCVV.**

### **Committee Reports:**

**Executive** – Lonnie Wilson reported. Most of the items have been pushed into the committee reports. Lonnie reported they talked about EQIP, pension reform, different grants. Lonnie appointed a task force to take on the issue of hiring an AISWCD Executive Director. The current Executive Director has made a decision to retire around September 1, 2014. The task force consists of: Lonnie Wilson, Tom Beyers, and Jerry Snodgrass. The task force will make a recommendation and take it to the Executive Committee. It will then be taken to the AISWCD board for confirmation of that position hopefully in March. Lonnie felt that decision fit within the bylaws, and ask for feedback. **Motion to approve process was made by Roger Johnson, seconded by Dan Duval. MCVV. Motion to approve Executive report was made by Barb Klinger, seconded by Dan Doedtman. MCVV.**

**Forestry** – David McCormick gave the report. There were several discussions going on, including logging contracts getting best management practices (bmp) which would include loggers taking care of trails where damage was made to the forest floor. Chainsaw safety classes were discussed. Discussion was held on polling districts which have a lot of forestry to see if they would have any board members interesting in being on the Forestry Committee. Discussion was held on asking Wayne Kinney to be a speaker at Summer Conference. The forestry council will be taking grants again. Last year, one of the two the committee submitted was accepted. They would like to submit the one that did not get accepted again this year, which is to hold forestry workshops throughout the state. **Motion by Dave McCormick to reapply for four forestry workshops throughout the state, seconded by Randy Molitoris. MCVV. Motion to approve Forestry Committee report was made by Barb Klinger, seconded by Dan Doedtman. MCVV.**

**AISWCD Auxiliary** – Marie Bunting gave the report. Marie and Judy Beyers will be traveling to Anaheim to the NACD Conference. They will be taking things for the country store, silent auction, and door prizes. The auxiliary will be sponsoring the poster and photo contests again this year. Marie is selling quilt tickets for the quilt to be given away at the NACD Annual Meeting. Tickets are \$1.00 each or 6/\$5.00. Marie gave everyone an opportunity to buy tickets. Kenny Vosholler presented Marie with a check for the auxiliary's share of the proceeds of the AISWCD auction.

**Insurance** – Melissa Cauble gave the insurance report, which is attached to the minutes.

**IL River Coordinating Councils** - Lee Bunting gave the report. Lee reported that in his June report, he had told the board the council was defunct, but that did not go through. There are still three different councils. The Illinois Governors River Council held their conference in Peoria. All AISWCD employees attended and the conference was successful. Lee discussed pipes sticking up out of the Wabash River. There are all kinds of river issues that Lee said he never knew existed before becoming a member of the council.

#### **Focus Committee Reports**

**Communications** – Steve Stierwalt gave the report. Steve was not present for the Communications Committee meeting on Monday, but gave the report based on Kenny Vosholler's notes, who chaired the committee. Discussion was held on the role of Land Use Councils and director training modules, and Rich Nichols is going to be working on that. The Farm Bureau resolutions process was also discussed. Social media discussed in regard to the government shutdown. Tom Beyers ask Steve Stierwalt to expand on what went on at the Farm Bureau Conference. There were no action items. **Motion by Barb Klinger to approve the report, seconded by Randy Molitoris. MCVV.**

**Education** – Lonnie Wilson gave the report in Jerry Snodgrass's absence. Grant opportunities will be published on the AISWCD website. Envirothon Coordinator bidding is currently out for application. The MOU between FFA and AISWCD for the Envirothon was discussed. The Education Committee would also like to have the FFA to be a member of the Envirothon Task Force; Jerry Snodgrass participated in the Education Committee meeting by phone on Monday and he was ask to take on the task of asking FFA to become a member of the task force. There was a recommendation to move the Teacher of the Year Award to the same time as the Farm Family Award and move that to the Annual Meeting Task Force for approval. **Lonnie withdrew the motion. The Annual Meeting Task Force will take the recommendation into consideration.** Steve Chard will check into getting the Teacher of the Year Award on the Agenda for presentation on Ag Day at the State Fair. **Motion by Barb Klinger to approve Education Committee report, seconded by Don Beisiegel. MCVV.**

**Financial Management** - The financials were reviewed by the board. **Motion by Lee Bunting, second by Barb Klinger to approved the financial reports. MCVV.** The budget was discussed. **Motion by Lee Bunting to amend the budget to reflect \$11,000 in order to pay mileage to the AISWCD board to Quarterly Board meetings, seconded by Terry Davis.** Lee wanted to go on record as saying the 24 directors are taking time out of their schedules to come to Springfield to the meetings, they have been paying for their own rooms and mileage since 2008, and he thinks the board should at least get paid mileage, and they deserve it. **Motion was aye – 5, opposed – 10. Motion did not carry.** It was a recommendation that the Financial Committee will revisit this, the budget will be reviewed and a new budget presented to see if Lee's request can be done based on any new information available. **Motion to approve the budget was made by Steve Stierwalt, second by Barb Klinger. MCVV.** The following recommendations were made as amendments to the budget:

- Lapel pins for affiliate membership – up to \$300.00 for pins – The board meeting was recessed so that a Foundation meeting could be called to order to discuss this since it is a Foundation matter (See foundation notes) **with a motion by Terry Davis, second by Steve Fulling.** The AISWCD board meeting reconvened, Kenny Vosholler continued with the budget discussion.
- **Motion to buy a van for the AISWCD spending up to \$25,000 made by Van Bitner, second by Roger Johnson. MCVV.**
- The 604B grant has been approved for \$220,000.00. Admin total for the grant is \$22,000 over thirty months. In the grant is money allocated for \$12,100 for travel for Kelly, and also money to increase Kelly's salary from \$36,000 to \$40,000. **A motion was made by Gerard Fabrizius, seconded by Dan Duval to recommend increasing Kelly's salary to \$40,000. MCVV.**

- Gina Bean has met the recommended requirements for job performance when she was hired. At that time Gina was promised a raise when those requirements were met. **A motion was made by Barb Klinger, seconded by Dan Duval to recommend raising Gina's salary 2% in 2014. MCVV.**
- **A motion was made by Roger Johnson, seconded by Dan Duval give Christmas bonuses in the amounts of: Sherry Finn - \$750.00; Rich Nichols - \$500.00; Kelly Thompson - \$250.00; Gina Bean - \$250.00. MCVV**  
**Motion to recommend raising Sherry Finn's salary an additional \$2,000 per year was made by Roger Johnson, seconded by Barb Klinger. MCVV.**  
**A motion to approve the Financial Management Committee report was made by Barb Klinger, seconded by Dan Doedtman. MCVV.**
- **Legislative & Resolutions** – Mike Hoffman was in attendance at the Legislative Committee meeting to give a legislative update on Monday. There were no current bills to take action on. The committee went over the three 2012 resolutions that still remain active. Two resolutions were adopted at the 2013 Summer Conference. One of the resolutions dealt with sales tax relief on cover crop seed, which has been researched and a request has been sent to the Department of Treasury to consider that. The Policy Book was the other resolution. A three ring binder has been assembled with the resolutions and the committee is discussing how they are going to handle that at next year's conference. A suggestion was made to post the resolutions on the website. The dues variance resolution has been completed. The legislative tour at Peoria was cancelled due to lack of interest. It was suggested the AISWCD approach legislators and ask for a resolution to declare one of the days of the State Envirothon as State of Illinois Envirothon Day. This would be a no cost issue for the legislators. Rich added he had talked with Mike Hoffman and they had come up with an idea to contact the Governor's office for a proclamation of May 1<sup>st</sup>, and could possibly get him there to sign it at the luncheon during the Envirothon, which would be in addition to the resolution process with the legislators. **Motion was made by Tom Beyers on behalf of the Legislative Committee to continue with pursuing the resolution process with the legislators and the proclamation process with the Governor for declaring State of Illinois Envirothon Day on May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014, seconded by Steve Fulling. MCVV.** Legislative Day was discussed, and the possibility of hosting a reception on Legislative Day. The suggestion was to visit the legislators during the day like always, and then that evening host a reception, perhaps the State House Inn, or Floyd's. It was also suggested one of the better dates to consider would be March 4<sup>th</sup>. The committee felt perhaps this could be coincided with March Quarterly Board. **Motion to approve the process and leave the Quarterly Board meeting dates alone, and let Mike Hoffman, in concurrence with partners come up with a date was made by Gerard Fabrizio, seconded by Barb Klinger. MCVV. Motion to approve the Legislative Committee Report was made by Steve Fulling, seconded by Barb Klinger. MCVV.**
- **Planning** – Van Bitner gave the report. The 2013 Summer Conference was discussed. The auction proceeds totaled \$6,182.00. The Auxiliary are happy with the figures for the Soil Stewardship Luncheon. Complaints were made on Director Training; there was no microphone system, and no disk for the training at the morning session. Chairman Bitner ask committee members to think of themes, the task force will be having a conference call in January. The possibility of revising the Farm Family Award application was discussed. The possibility of perhaps awarding a Farm Family award only every other year and having another venue in the off year was discussed. Another scenario would be two groups of eight Land Use Councils (odds and evens) would submit entries every other year. The information needs to go back to the Land Use Councils to get there feedback on this. Whatever the outcome, the changes wouldn't be effective until 2015. Marie Bunting stressed the Farm Family must be recognized more than they were in 2013. After traveling to Springfield, the winners should not just be recognized on the screen. Opening Ceremonies went way too long, thus throwing other sessions behind. The outstanding employee will be awarded at Winter Training, and recognized again the following summer at Summer Conference. There will be no one recognized at the 2014 Summer Conference, since there was award given at the 2013 Winter Training. The scholarship winner, which is sponsored by the ISWCDEA, will be awarded during Summer Conference. **A motion was made by Lee Bunting, seconded by Barb Klinger, that AISWCD provide two luncheon tickets for the Outstanding Employee when applicable, and also for the scholarship winner. MCVV.**

- **Motion from Van Bitner, second by Dan Doedtman the conference date for 2014 will be July 28 & 29, at the Northfield Inn in Springfield, Illinois and that registration be as follows:**
  - Early Bird Registration April 15 – May 15 -- \$40.00
  - Registration May 16 – June 30 -- \$45.00
  - Registration July 1 – 8 -- \$55.00
- MCVV.**

The planning committee on behalf of the Annual Meeting Task Force asked the board for permission to give the Annual Meeting Task Force permission to make any scheduling decisions, etc regarding Summer Conference. **A motion to give Annual Meeting Task Force authority to make any addition decisions regarding the 2014 Summer Conference was made by Van Bitner, seconded by Steve Fulling. MCVV. A motion to approve the Planning Meeting Committee report was made by Barb Klinger, seconded by Dan Doedtman. MCVV.**

**Urban Community & Conservation** – Gerard Fabrizio gave the report. There were no action items. Gerard touched on a grant written by DNR, wanting the AISWCD to administer the grant. Copies are available of the field manual. **Motion to approve the report was made by Tom Beyers, second by Dan Doedtman. MCVV.**

**Executive Directors Report** – Attached to the packet for the boards review. **Motion to accept report was made by Tom Beyers, seconded by Don Beisiegel. MCVV.**

**Area VP Reports:**

**Area 1** – No Report

**Area 2** – No Report

**Area 3** – No Report

**Area 4** – No Report

**Approve Minutes of June 2013 Board Meeting– Motion by Tom Beyers to approve the June 2013 Board Meeting Minutes, seconded by Barb Klinger. MCVV.**

**Old Business**

**SWCD Dues Update** – – Five districts that did not pay any dues for 2013: Adams, Gallatin, Pope-Hardin, Randolph and Scott , which is a total of \$7224.15. Three did not pay remaining 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 2013 – Greene, Pike, Macon, with a total of \$1,023.21. One district, Jefferson County only paid ½ and that was a total of \$722.41. This is a total of \$8969.77 in outstanding dues for 2013. Invoice notices for FY14 dues were sent out to all districts as of December 4 for the 3% dues of the money that has been received (not quite ½).

**Grant Update** – Was given by Kelly Thompson. AISWCD has been awarded a new grant, the 604B, which will take effect as soon as the 319 concludes in February. Rich touched on the CREP grant. A 6<sup>th</sup> person has been hired. He will start in Schuyler County on January 1<sup>st</sup>. Rich received an email from IDNR asking if they would administer an IGIG grant they are writing for the fairgrounds, AISWCD has agreed to do this.

IEPA Presentation – Trevor Sample, a representative from IEPA gave a slide presentation on Illinois Nutrient Management Strategy.

**Memorandum of Understanding/Outreach Update** – In the packets is a copy of the final Memorandum of Understanding . Lonnie thanked employees for being a part of the task force, by taking the lead on this. This is a base document. The document has the language of today, not 1968. It is something for the districts to use (document attached to minutes). **A motion was made by Tom Beyers, seconded by Barb Klinger to approve the AISWCD to publish the document as something the districts can use. MCVV.**

**Natural Area Guardians/Burns Update** – No action.

**Soil Health Update** – No action.

**Farm Progress Show Final Report** – Lonnie said the AISWCD broke even, the costs were split with all the partners, and everyone has been paid.

**NACD Legislative Conference – Washington, DC Update** – Lonnie reported he and Tom went to all but three offices on the congressional side. They did focus on the ag and appropriations committee.

**Executive Director's Conference – Flagstaff, AZ** – Rich reported he went to Flagstaff, Arizona the first week of September. Rich appreciates the opportunity to attend the event and the opportunity to network with other Executive Directors.

#### **New Business**

**NACD Annual Meeting – Anaheim, CA** – Gerard Fabrizio is hopefully getting help on attending with a scholarship from NACD. Sherry reported the auction item was two signed books. Lonnie is also taking 2 dozen rolls of embroidered toilet paper.

**NACD North Central Region** – This was covered in the NACD North Central Report above.

**Written reports from partners – A motion to approve the written reports was made by Barb Klinger, seconded by Dan Doedtmann. MCVV.**

**Motion to adjourn made by Barb Klinger.**

The meeting adjourned at 12:40 pm.

Minutes taken & transcribed by:

*Cindy Moon*

Approved by:

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**Signature**

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**Date**