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DOT POINT HIGHLIGHTS-AISWCD MARCH QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING 2-26-2014 @ NORTHFIELD INN CONFERENCE CENTER

ATTENDANCE: 4 Officers, 3 Area VPs (Carlyn Light absent), 14 Council Members (Randy Molitoris and Tom Anderson absent), 4 AISWCD Staff, & 2 ISWCDEA Reps

AGENDA: Approved with an update to add IL Envirothon Report by Sondra Baker, DeWitt County, new Coordinator

PARTNER REPORTS: IDOA and ISWCDEA

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Lonnie Wilson reported on 2013 Resolution for Policy Manual-discussion on how to eliminate some Resolutions because AISWCD By-Laws do not have guidelines for this so taskforce assigned to look into this; Envirothon Bridge Fund Acct sent to Education FAC, Legislator of the Year and Friend of Conservation sent to Legislative FAC, Outstanding Forestry sent to Forestry Committee; Personnel update: Change Sherry Finn title from Administrative Assistant to Administrative Specialist with no increase in salary; Kelly Thompson promoted to Executive Director and make offer with time frame to start after Summer Conference (September); IUM Grant replacement-appointed taskforce to look into a replacement.

COMMUNICATION: Steve Stierwalt reported about Director Training and LUC roles and responsibilities; possibility of using teleconferencing or link system for for LUC meeting; Action Item: Have AISWCD put together a "How to hold LUC Meetings by teleconference" and notify AISWCD and Partners about meetings.

EDUCATION: Lonnie Wilson presented Jerry Snodgrass the Director Training Pin to Adhere to the AISWCD plaque from NACD for the accomplishment of training presented at the Annual Meeting for 2013. Jerry Snodgrass reported the Prairie Garden at the AISWCD office paid for by IDNR will be done by Lanphier High School students; welcomed the DeWitt County SWCD staff as the new IL Envirothon Coordinators for 2014.



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EDUCATION (continued): The teacher of the year application will have a Deadline date: May 16, 2014 and the teacher completes the application and submits to District-there are two awards-one for K-8 and one for 9-12, Audubon Society will be sponsoring award, will honor them at Ag Day, and give second Award at that time, Board approved add'l funds for awards; Bridge Fund account will be held onto at this time since there is not an official National Envirothon at this time.

FINANCIAL: Kenny Vosholler reported AISWCD Audit for 2013 would commence the second week of April; the 2014 AISWCD Budget is going to be updated with current amounts for CREP, IUM, and IGIG; AISWCD financials approved.

LEGISLATIVE: Tom Beyers reported about current bills they are tracking which includes the Prevailing Wage Act, Nutrient Taskforce, & Shell Bills; No progress yet on the Envirothon Resolution/Proclamation for April 30th, but Tom is willing to present to his local legislator and asked for help from others; reported the committee passed for U S Rep Rodney Davis to be named the Legislator of the year for 2014 and for the Meijer Corporation to be named the Friend of Conservation for 2014; Gerard Fabrizius has proposed o have a Chicago Legislative Tour, a half day event, to take place in late summer or early fall with the help of the Field Moms group and area SWCDs; Tom made note of the letter sent by IEPA regarding IL Nutrient Reduction Strategy.

PLANNING: Van Bitner reported the theme had been changed with a recommendation from Mike Rahe at the Dept of Ag since we are located on Route 66 and this is the AISWCD's 66th Annual Meeting; so the theme and logo will reflect this: "All Roads lead to Conservation" with a logo using Route 66 sign; Van noted the 2014 Farm Family Application will stay the same, but a Taskforce has been assigned to look into changes for 2015 and/or future; Van stated that sessions and events were coming along nicely for 2014.

URBAN COMMUNITY: Gerard Fabrizius reported Kelly Thompson and Megan Andrews had attended the NACD Annual Meeting "Share Fair"; there is now a



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URBAN COMMUNITY (continued): hard copy of the Field Manual available; RPG was attended by Kelly, Megan and Gerard at the NACD meeting; there will be a session on soil health-Indiana Conservation Cropping Initiative at AISWCD Annual Meeting; Gerard would like a white paper detailing Urban Practices for Urban Directors to hand out to Urban Legislators; reported on request to hold a Legislative Tour for Chicago Legislators in late summer or early fall.

AUXILIARY: Lee Bunting reported that the Auxiliary had secured a speaker for the Soil Stewardship Luncheon.

FORESTRY: David McCormick reported still working on grant proposals; Forestry Development Council still has not met due to the weather causing Cancellations; supposed to meet next week; Did not have a candidate for the Outstanding Forestry Award and asked AISWCD to send out an il.all asking if a SWCD has someone to nominate; wants to send a letter to IDNR to fill the position for State Forester.

SWCD Insurance: Melissa Cauble reported; January report in QB packet and February update submitted as handout.

All reports were approved

AREA VP REPORTS:

AREA I: Jerry Snodgrass reported LUC 16 will have 3 Resolutions-Soil Health, Urban Nutrient Reduction, and Certainty Program

AREA II: David McCormick did not have anything to report.

AREA III: Steve Stierwalt did not have anything to report.

AREA IV: Carlyn Light was absent from meeting; no report.

Old Business:

Dues: Sherry Finn reported there are 15 Councils, but 5-6 have notified they plan to pay; others will be sent notices.

CREP Staffing: Sherry Finn reported that all 6 positions are filled.

IUM: Lonnie Wilson reported Field Manual being distributed; new grant for IUM is under a new number-604B-and is for 30 months.



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MOU: Ivan Dozier at NRCS has the completed MOU; they are happy with the language, but want to insert some items and have legal take a look at the final document.

Affiliate Membership: Gina Bean reported there is 1 District member, 4 Individual Members, 1 Corporate Member, and 1 Lifetime member. She will be sending out a reminder letter about sign up and what incentives are available. Pins still have not been ordered, but will be soon.

FY 2014 State Budget: No report at this time; Governor holding off.

Resolutions/Variance/Policy Book: Lonnie Wilson reported there was a copy of the first draft proposal, but the AISWCD By-Laws do not have a direction on how to handle Resolutions if they are no longer in effect or completed; should exam how this plays out in the By-Laws-come back in June and see if anything can be done and make By-Law change if necessary. Possibility of dissolving some Resolutions and have Policy Booklet; the AISWCD and Lonnie will look into this with the Parliamentarian.

NACD North Central Region: Lonnie Wilson reported the Resolutions were approved which included one about invasive species with aquatics; Lonnie Wilson is the new Chairman for the NCR and Ian Cunningham is the new Vice-Chairman. Gerard Fabrizio reported he attended and observed the inner workings and Legislative priorities; Lonnie reported there is a farm bill and a new section was added to the NCR for Urban and River issues.

NACD Annual Meeting: Lonnie Wilson reported they learned at the NACD Annual Meeting that the National Envirothon has been cancelled for 2014 and the NCR is trying to restore it or have a NCR event and move forward, they are working towards a goal to establish the event again; Kelly Thompson and Megan Andrews present on IUM at the NACD Ann. Mtg- Gerard noted their presentation was very impressive.



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New Van Status: The AISWCD has purchased a new van; will be picked this Thursday; the handout on the financials is in file packet.

NEW BUSINESS:

IL Envirothon Coordinators: Lonnie Wilson reported DeWitt County SWCD staff accepted the contract for IL Envirothon Coordinators. Sondra Baker from DeWitt County SWCD reported; she thanked everyone for trusting the DeWitt County Staff with the task; the Registration and Volunteer packets have gone out along with the 5th category information; T-Shirt design has been selected and T-shirts have been put out for bid with their local design company and cost is \$4.75 per shirt, which is \$0.10 cheaper than last year's shirts; all 16 judges have been secured and 3 presenters secured, 2 more presenters have been contacted; Eco promotional gave bids on trophies (\$283.12 for all three); Sherry Finn provided them with the U of I campground contract, which has been secured; Brown Bag facility has been notified and new menu items have been added which include vegetarian options; oral presentation materials have been updated; Prairie Farmer will furnish Ice Cream for social; Pheasants Forever have been contacted to contribute again; Test being done; new game-Glow in the Dark Kick Ball.

National Envirothon Update: Lonnie Wilson reported there is a Taskforce committee and they have until 3-14-14 to submit a letter of intent and if they cannot then the NACD North Central Region will move forward with an event.

AISWCD Board Membership accepted all reports-written and financial.