

Legislative Focus Area Committee Meeting Minutes
AISWCD Quarterly Board
Northfield Inn, Springfield, IL
February 24, 2014

Members/Advisors Present:

Tom Beyers, Chairman
Terry Bogner
Sue Davis
Steve Fulling
Ken Kesler
Joe Rothermel
Dale Shumaker
Jason Anderson
Jim Todd
Sondra Baker
Rich Nichols

Members/Advisors Absent:

Dick Breckenridge, IEPA
Tessa Chadwick, NRCS
Steve Chard
Terry Davis
Mike Hoffmann, AISWCD Lobbyist
Carlyn Light
Mark Roth

Chairman Tom Beyers called the meeting to order. Roll call was done by Sue Davis.

Approve Agenda-Two items were added to New Business: 1. Environmental Group letter and 2. Possible Chicago Conservation Tour, motion was made by Steve Fulling and seconded by Jim Todd to approve the Agenda with the 2 additions, motion carried.

Approve December 9, 2103 Meeting Minutes- A motion was made by Terry Bogner and seconded by Ken Kesler to approve the December 9, 2013 Meeting Minutes, motion carried.

Legislative Update-Mike Hoffmann absent. Rich Nichols went over bills that he is watching; he spoke about some shell bills that need to be watched for SWCD's. Rich explained his process of following bills each year. We are once again watching the Gaming Bill sponsored by Senator Terry Link.

Partner Reports-None

Old Business

Memorandum of Understanding Update-The Memo of Understanding has been reviewed and NRCS has to proof read and make any changes needed.

FY2012/2103 AISWCD Resolutions/Variance Update-Rich has completed the 1st draft of the Policy Book which consists of General Policies, By-laws, etc. This is a working document which may prompt a review/change of the By-laws. The Variance Update came into effect last year, if Variance is needed it must be applied for 60 days in Advance.

FY 2014 State Budget Update-There is no budget yet.

Envirothon Day Resolution Update-Nothing has been done towards this for this year. There are still plans to invite the Governor to the State Envirothon for Illinois Envirothon Day.

NACD Annual Meeting, Anaheim, CA Update- Tom Beyers reported that this was a very good meeting with a busy agenda. Much discussion on the Farm Bill. There were 9 Resolutions from the North Central Area, 4 moved on and 2 went to the floor. And it was reported that the National Envirothon in Georgia has been cancelled for 2014.

2014 Legislative Day Update-It was discussed that yesterday's event was very successful. There were about 57 or so Directors, Employees, and Partners. The Legislative Reception was a huge success with about 20 Legislators and their Aides attending. Cost for the event came in under budget, it cost about \$1,116.

NEW BUSINESS

Legislator of the Year-A motion was made by Steve Fulling and seconded by Terry Bogner to nominate US Rep. Rodney Davis as Legislator of the Year, motion carried.

Friend of Conservation- A motion was made by Jim Todd and seconded by Terry Bogner to nominate Meijer Store for the Friend of Conservation, motion carried.

Conservation Tour-Gerard Fabrizio will hold a Conservation Tour in the Chicago area, possibly in September. Cost would be for bus transportation and luncheon. He is trying to find a good date for this tour and will have more information at the next Quarterly Board meeting.

Environmental Letter- Titled "RE: Environmental Sector's Recommendations for Action Steps in the Illinois Nutrient Reduction Strategy" dated 2/7/14 to Marcia Wilhite, Chief of Bureau of Water for IEPA and to Warren Goetsch, Chief IDOA Bureau of Environmental Programs. There was some discussion on this letter but no action.

A motion was made by Ken Kesler and seconded by Joe Rothermel, motion carried.

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