

AISWCD Quarterly Board Meeting
Urban and Community Conservation Focus Area Committee
Wednesday, February 26, 2014 10:30 am
Northfield Inn Conference Center – Springfield, IL

Present:

Don Beisiegel
Joe Bybee, IDOA
Daniel Doedtman
Gerard Fabrizio, Co-Chairperson
Gina Bean, AISWCD, Minute Recorder
Jerry Snodgrass, Co-Chairperson
Kelly Thompson, AISWCD
Keith Livesay
Steve Stierwalt
Marty McManus, IDOA

Absent:

Lee Bunting
Chris Davis, IEPA
Renea Hildebrandt, IDNR
Don McCallon, NRCS

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 10:45 am.

2. **Roll Call:** Done by Gina Bean, AISWCD

3. **Approve Agenda:**

First: Jerry Snodgrass *Second:* Gerard Fabrizio *Carried:* Yes

4. **Approval of December '13 FAC Meeting Minutes:**

First: Don Beisiegel *Second:* Dan Doedtman *Carried:* Yes

5. **Old Business**

A. IUM Update

Kelly Thompson reported that the 319 grant has concluded. She is starting the 604B grant which is a 30 month grant. The field manuals are finished and are starting to get distributed. Each District will have five. Inspection counties will have 50. There will be three locations in the state that are holding manuals for further distribution. Those locations are Madison SWCD, Kane DuPage SWCD, and the AISWCD office in Springfield.

With the new grant, there are five standards that a consultant will be working on. There is about \$25,000 in the grant for contracts. They will also be addressing by-laws for the technical committee. The field manuals have 17 practices that you would commonly see at an inspection site. The full field manual is online.

B. CPESC Training

Joe Bybee, before talking about CPESC training, reported that IDOA will now be doing new director training by regions. Regional reps will have field manuals out to all the Districts soon.

He also talked about the twenty counties that have IEPA agreements for soil erosion sediment control. There is a workgroup set up and they will start to have annual meetings with the EPA to fine tune inspections and the vouchering system from both sides. This will be a great opportunity for all to communicate what is going on. The next meeting will be May 21, 2014. They will start standardization as well so all districts report to EPA in the same way.

Joe Bybee also let the group know that urban and rural SSRP deadlines have moved to June 1, 2014. Specialists will soon be available to go on projects.

Joe Bybee will be finding speakers for a Monday, July 28, 2014 CPESC training session from 10:00 am to noon at the annual meeting. CPESC may be shifted to the ISWCDEA's Winter Training for a four hour training so it does not compete with a conservation cropping session at annual meeting.

In other news, Joe Bybee was awarded the employee of the month award at the IDOA.

C. Adopt a Legislator Update

Gerard Fabrizio checked with his local Farm Bureau about sharing their Adopt a Legislator. If Districts are interested in the program they should contact their county's Farm Bureau. Like Jerry Snodgrass's county, some counties' Farm Bureaus will not share their Adopt a Legislator day with the SWCDs. Legislators do find it interesting to climb up on farm equipment and see how it works when they are given the opportunity and it is wonderful when SWCDs can join in what the Farm Bureau is already doing.

E. American Farmland Trust – Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative – Possible Speakers

Gerard Fabrizio is working on a resolution to present at summer conference entitled Soil Health. He thought it would be a good idea to get speakers relating to the topic. Indiana has a good program which is the Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative. Gerard has contacted Indiana's Executive Director to see if she can send speakers to summer conference and as of now it looks very promising.

Gerard Fabrizio took this time to let the group know that Jenny Philibiack called him wanting to host the lady land owners on his farm in March. He is not sure if March would be a good time, but thinks this is a great opportunity to speak to them about conservation. He thinks June would be a better time for them to come.

6. New Business

A. Legislative Tour 2014

Gerard Fabrizio would like to have a Legislative Tour in the north east part of Illinois later this year. It would include Chicago and suburban legislators.

A motion was made to ask the Board of Directors if they approve of a Legislative Tour in the north east part of Illinois later this year by Dan Doedtman and 2nd by Steve Stierwalt. Motion carried.

B. Legislative Day

While attending Legislative Day 2014, Dan Doedtman wanted to see Legislators that were not from his area. He ventured around the Capitol and Stratton buildings and found Legislators to talk to that were not assigned to him. The north east part of Illinois has been Legislators assigned to it due to Chicago and it's suburbs. Steve Stierwalt suggested developing a white sheet on urban conservation concerning what the SWCDs can do for urban communities. The white sheet should be short with bullet points. Kelly Thompson suggested reaching out to Land Use Council 16 to come to Legislative Day to form a group to talk to their urban Legislators.

Jerry Snodgrass suggested that the focus be shifted toward urban legislators and that there needs to be an urban connection instead of a rural to get the urban Legislators interested in SWCDs.

Steve Stierwalt suggested an urban legislative day where employees and directors talk and persuade legislators of the importance of SWCDs and clean urban water. The white sheet could have how programs impact urban areas.

The group thinks that Illinois State Representative, Cynthia Soto, could help with getting urban legislators interested.

A motion to develop a white sheet about urban soil and water practices for Legislators was made by Dan Doedtman and 2nd by Jerry Snodgrass. Motion carried.

Gerard Fabrizio called Linda Olsen from Illinois Farm Bureau, who is in charge of Illinois Field Moms, to perhaps have soil and water districts be a sponsor. It turns out that their sponsors donate very large amounts of money that districts and AISWCD do not have.

7. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 11:34 am.

First: Dan Doedtman *Second:* Don Biesiegel

Minutes taken by: Gina Bean, AISWCD Office Assistant