

Education Focus Area Committee Meeting Minutes  
AISWCD Quarterly Board  
Northfield Inn, Springfield, IL  
June 9, 2014

Members/Advisors Present:

Don Beisiegel  
Terry Bogner, Envirothon Chair  
Lee Bunting  
Dave Dornbusch, NRCS  
Gerard Fabrizio  
Valerie Keener, IDNR  
Barb Klinger  
Jerry Snodgrass, Chairperson  
Sue Davis  
Sondra Baker  
Joe Bybee, IDOA  
Kelly Thompson  
Tom Beyers  
Rich Nichols

Members/Advisors Absent:

Randy Molitoris  
Joe Rothermel  
Debbie Ruff  
Scott Tomkins, IEPA

Chairman Jerry Snodgrass called the meeting to order. Roll Call was done by Sue Davis.

Approve Agenda-A motion was made by Don Beisiegel and seconded by Terry Bogner to approve the Agenda with the addition of Update Envirothon Day Legislation and DeWitt County Envirothon Contract, motion carried.

Approve February 24, 2014 Meeting Minutes- A motion was made by Don Beisiegel and seconded by Terry Bogner to approve the February 2014 Meeting Minutes as presented, motion carried.

IDNR Report-Valerie Keener gave the IDNR Report-The demonstration rain garden at the AISWCD office was completed in April and was featured in an article in the State Journal Register in Springfield. The IDNR Division of Education will be participating in Conservation World this year, the theme is *Monarch Mania!* The Illinois State Board of Education is changing the regulations regarding Continuing Professional Development Units (CPDU's) and also approved providers of CPDU's. The new CPDU paperwork will be available July 1. Current CPDU providers will be able to continue offer CPDU's through December 31, 2014.

IDOA Report-Joe Bybee reported that 1200 kids attended the Earth Stewardship Days at Watershed Park on the State Fairgrounds. Watershed Park will be operating during the State Fair and the IDOA is again asking for volunteers. Joe discussed the Cover Crop Demonstration Sites, he stated there were 15 accepted and now there will be 23 plots. The Soil Health Seminars will be held in Sycamore, Mattoon, and Macomb in the fall.

NRCS Report-Dave Dornbusch reported that State Conservationist Ivan Dozier attended both days of the Envirothon as a chaperone. Dave also reported that they have been working on Re-organization Plan and that it has been submitted to the Regional Office. For EQIP, they have had the first funding cut-off

and for CSP there were around 900 applications statewide. He discussed other Farm Bill programs. There is a big emphasis on Soil Health and trying to get the word out about it.

## OLD BUSINESS

2014 McKibben Scholarship Review Committee/Scholarship Applications-There were 3 applications to review by the whole committee and one was selected.

2014 AISWCD Annual Meeting Teacher of the Year Applications- There were 3 applications submitted in the 9 to 12<sup>th</sup> grade range and 4 applications submitted for the Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade range. These were reviewed by the whole committee and one was submitted for each grade range. Valerie Keener from IDNR said there will be \$250 Field Trip Awards given to each winning teacher this year.

FFA MOU and Guidelines Update-Sondra Baker discussed the FFA MOU Update and FFA Guidelines. The FFA Guidelines will now be in the Registration Packet each year for the Envirothon.

Envirothon Bridge Fund Update-A motion was made by Lee Bunting and seconded by Don Beisiegel to give the \$2,540 from the Bridge Fund to the Regional Envirothon competition. The Regional Competition will be held at Loyola Retreat and Ecology Campus from August 3<sup>rd</sup> to August 5<sup>th</sup>. State Registration fee is \$900 per team and Team Registration fee is \$800 per team. A motion was made by Lee Bunting and seconded by Terry Bogner to pay the \$1,700 for the Illinois team's Regional fees, motion carried.

There will be 9 states competing, they are as follows:

- Illinois
- Mississippi
- Michigan
- Iowa
- Virginia
- Missouri
- Indiana
- Minnesota
- Wisconsin

There will be 3 Scholarships given out to the tops three teams. The amounts are 1<sup>st</sup>-\$750, 2<sup>nd</sup>-\$500, and 3<sup>rd</sup>-\$250.

Envirothon Day Legislation-For this year, the Legislators passed this on May 16<sup>th</sup> for May 1<sup>st</sup>. With Mike Hoffmann's help, plans are to start earlier to get the Senate or House (maybe JOINT) Proclamation for May 1<sup>st</sup> to be Envirothon Day each year.

DeWitt County Envirothon Contract-A motion was made by Terry Bogner and seconded by Barb Klinger to renew the contract with DeWitt County as the Envirothon Coordinators for next year, motion carried.

Sondra Baker, Envirothon Coordinator thanked the AISWCD officers for coming to the State Envirothon. She thanked Rich Nichols, Lonnie Wilson, and Kenny Vosholler for coming and participating in the State Event.

A motion was made by Barb Klinger and seconded by Gerard Fabrizio to adjourn. Motion carried.

Submitted by: Sue M. Davis  
AC, Christian County