

Education Focus Area Committee Meeting Minutes
AISWCD Quarterly Board
Northfield Inn, Springfield, IL
December 8, 2014

Members/Advisors Present:

Sondra Baker
Don Beisiegel
Lee Bunting
Dave Dornbusch, NRCS
Valerie Keener, IDNR
Randy Molitoris
Jerry Snodgrass, Chairperson
Scott Tompkins, IEPA
Sue Davis, Minute Recorder
Tom Beyers
Melissa Cauble

Members/Advisors Absent:

Terry Bogner, Envirothon Chairman
Gerard Fabrizius
Barb Klinger
Joe Rothermel
Debbie Ruff, Minute Recorder

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

Approve Agenda-A motion was made by Lee Bunting and seconded by Don Beisiegel to approve the Agenda with no additions, motion carried.

Approve June 9, 2014 Meeting Minutes- A motion was made by Tom Beyers and seconded by Lee Bunting to approve the June 9, 2014 Meeting Minutes as presented, motion carried.

Partner Reports-

- IDNR-Valerie Keener gave the IDNR Report. Monthly Webinars are being offered as an educational tool and they hope to increase this and have more. 38 additional *ILLINOIS' AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES FIELD PACKS* are being developed and will be placed with host sites soon. With this addition there will be 63 packs available statewide. Deadline for 2014 *Schoolyard Habitat Action Grant* was November 30, 2014. 39 applications were requested totaling over \$32,722.52. Deadline for Illinois Biodiversity Fieldtrip Grant is January 31, 2015. *Kids for Conservation* is now a monthly web-based program. Monarch Mania! was the theme for Conservation World at the State Fair and the monarch was proposed for federal threatened/endangered status. As of January 1, 2015 the IDNR and other non-formal educational organizations will not be able to serve as a Professional Development Provider for teacher recertification credits. These will have to be provided by an approved Provider which IDNR is not as this time. In the future the IDNR could possibly be a sub-contractor to provide Professional Development Hours through an approved contractor who will most likely need to be paid for this service.
- NRCS-Dave Dornbusch reported that NRCS is in the middle of reorganization and they hope to have it done by early 2015. All NRCS staff and FSA have to issue the Receipt for Service to customers; they recently had training on this. This started December 1, 2014 and came from the new Farm Bill. It is being asked in Washington DC rather partners (SWCD) has to do these receipts. Dave commented that the training for this is in Ag Learn and you need to have Level 2 E-Authorization to do this. Dave reported that the first batch of EQIP applications is done and

the next deadline is mid-January and they hope to ask for more money. Dave also reported that SCIMS was taken down and NRCS has no access to it.

- IEPA-Scott Tompkins reported about the 2015 Work Plan for US EPA and they hope to announce recipients in the spring.

OLD BUSINESS

Regional Stewardship Challenge Results-There were 9 states in attendance and it was held August 3 – 5 at Loyola. Celebrity Chef Scott Cummings from Hell's Kitchen was the wonderful chef for the event. 1st place went to Mississippi, 2nd place went to Virginia, and 3rd place to Iowa. Winner of the Oral Presentation was Iowa. Sondra Baker thanked the many organizations for their donations and supplies.

MOU with FFA-Sondra Baker reported that she is excited to finish the MOU with FFA. She has been working with Executive Director Jim Craft to get this accomplished and this was overdue in being done so that all Districts, the AISWCD, and FFA were all on-board with the Envirothon event. Illinois FFA will provide the following:

1. Provide Sponsorships for the Envirothon; may already have a sizeable Sponsor committed for the State Envirothon
2. Pay Registration Fee
3. Member of FFA Upper Staff member will sit on the Envirothon Task Force
4. FFA will add the State Envirothon to all FFA Media Events

Sondra has agreed to send the State FFA a list of FFA participants to make sure they are in good-standing to be able to participate as an FFA member. Sondra reported that all Intent to Participate for 2015 have been turned in. She needs to have State Envirothon Registration Forms turned into her by April 10, 2015 and Permission Slips by April 17, 2015. The study materials are online and some had broken links so she has been working on updating them.

NEW BUSINESS

Illinois State Envirothon-Sondra reported that the Task Force will begin work after Christmas and she will work on the 5th category tests to have done for local competitions.

2015 Annual Meeting Awards-Valerie Keener agreed to help publicize the Teacher of the Year Award again this year after it is updated. The 2014 George McKibben Memorial Scholarship packet was passed out for the committee to review and make changes for the 2015 award. A motion was made by Don Beisiegel and seconded by Lee Bunting to change the wording in the application for Teacher of the Year from "full-time teacher" to "must be teaching in the classroom", motion carried. Sue Davis will give Gina Bean a marked up copy to make the changes for 2015 McKibben Scholarship.

A motion was made by Don Beisiegel and seconded by Lee Bunting to adjourn, motion carried.

Submitted by: Sue M. Davis

AC, Christian County SWCD