

**AISWCD Board meeting
June Quarterly Board
June 9, 2015
Springfield, IL - Northfield Inn & Suites**

Present

Myron Kirby, President
Tom Beyers, Vice-President
Van Bitner, Secretary
Kenny Vosholler, Treasurer
Lonnie Wilson, Pas President
Jerry Snodgrass, Area 1 VP
Davis McCormick, Area 2 VP
Steve Stierwalt, Area 3 VP
Glen Bowers, Area 4 VP
Barb Klinger, LUC 1
Terry Bogner, LUC 2
Lee Bunting, LUC 3
Terry Davis, LUC 4
Dan Duval, LUC 5
Randy Molitoris, LUC 6
Joe Rothermel, LUC 7
Jason Anderson, LUC 9
Bob Swearingen, Luc 10
Steve Fulling, LUC 11
Don Beisiegel, LUC 12
Roger Johnson, LUC 13
Dale Shumaker, LUC 15
Marie Bunting, Auxiliary President
Sondra Baker, ISWDEA Co-Chair
Keith Livesay, ISWCDEA, Vice Co-Chair
Kelly Thompson, AISWCD
Gina Bean, AISWCD
Matt Hanauer, AISWCD

Absent

Gerard Fabrizio, LUC 16
Mike Hoffman, Lobbyist
Daniel Doedtman, LUC 10
Darrell Roegge, LUC 8
Tom Anderson, LUC 14

Call to Order

Myron Kirby, AISWCD President called the meeting to order at 8:28 am.

Roll Call

Roll call was taken by Secretary Van Bitner.

Approve Agenda

The agenda was reviewed. A motion was made by Tom Beyers, second by Barb Klinger to approve the agenda with one addition. MCVV.

Minutes

Motion to approve the March 2015 Quarterly Board Meeting minutes was made by Tom Beyers, seconded by Don Beisiegel. MCVV.

Partner Reports

IDOA (Steve Chard) Steve Chard gave the report. Steve said he concurred the budget was very painful and frustrating in regard to the 2.8 million that was swept in the FY15. They are hoping the FY16 funding will be much better, with level funding with FY15 budget flat without the sweeps. IDOA has received approval on a RCCP for soil health. This was approved for \$200,000 or districts assisting landowners with RCCP. Steve told the board he would like them to encourage landowners to sign up. Steve touched on the "Roadshow's on NLRs", wind farms, and announced that Warren Goesch is now the Illinois Director of Agriculture's Chief of Staff.

NRCS – Ivan Dozier gave the report. Ivan said NRCS is just trying to keep their head above water. Equip is ahead of schedule getting funds obligated, but Illinois has less money than they have had previously. CSP – Illinois is #4 or 5 in the nation. MRBI – There are 2 in the state. Ivan also touch on Kinkaid Lake watershed project, the funding of RCCP projects, in which there were three in Illinois. Ivan also reported the 30 day period for the congressional session was held last week regarding the NRCS reorganization. Boundaries will hopefully be switched by the end of the month, then the Super DC positions will be announced, and that will have to go thru a national team to advertise. Ivan is hoping everything will be in place by the end of the calendar year. The webinar training was mentioned for the Agreement with AISWCD, for districts to receive contribution agreements. The MOU template is out for SWCD's & NRCS.

Auditor Report – Pehlman & Dold, PC provided the report. Tim Cravens gave a clean opinion. IRS has pulled the 501C3 exempt status from the Foundation because of late filing of reports. The auditor said it was because of a mix up in tax year end, and they were going to try again.

CREP – Myron introduced the CREP specialist.

IEPA– No Report.

IDNR – No Report.

IFA – No Report.

Auxiliary – Marie Bunting gave the report. Marie thanks district employees and directors for the acts of sympathy for Marie's sister. Marie reported on the Country Store, raffle, men's auction for Summer Conference, and asked for donations for the Country Store. The Auxiliary will host the Farm Families. The Auxiliary are helping to sponsor the music before and after the auction.

ISWCDEA – Sondra Baker, and Keith Livesay, gave the report. Written report is on page 45 of the June QB packet.

Envirothon – Sondra Baker reported on the Envirothon. She passed out results and pictures of the State Envirothon to the board.

SWCD Insurance - Melissa Cauble gave the insurance report. The report can be found on page 46-52 of the packet. There is no increase in premiums for 2016. There is also no increase in life or disability.

North Central NACD – The report was given by Myron Kirby and Tom Beyers. NACD is looking for Soil Health Champions. Nominations should be sent to Kelly Thompson. Kenny Loveless from Missouri is the new North Central President. The new Vice President is Myron Kirby. Tom also reported Missouri and Minnesota receive 23 million each year for SWCD's. Ohio is also significantly higher than Illinois.

AISWCD Executive Director – No oral report. Kelly indicated her last bi-monthly report was sent out on June 1. Kelly encouraged all district employees and directors to attend a Roadshow meeting.

LICA – Myron announced Tom Beyers is the new President of LICA, with Lee Bunting serving as Vice President. Myron said AISWCD is looking forward for the two to let them know what Illinois Land Contractors are doing.

Gateway Training – Agreements signed and to the office by June 15th.

Old Business

Dues Update – Gina Bean gave an update.

Grants Update – Matt Hanauer gave an update on 604B grant. Gina Bean reported the new Crep grant is a little different, in that they need to pay the money up front, and then get reimbursed.

FY2016 State Budget Update – Myron reported that once the FY16 budget is passed, there will be no reserves pulled out after the budget is passed.

Policy Book Update – Tom Beyers reported the last few year the book has not been kept up. The staff has

compiled the resolutions in pdf format. The book was sent to the Resolutions Committee with suggestions. It will be put on the website, and action will be taken at Summer Conference on getting old resolutions off the books. Resolutions for 2015 were covered individually on the suggestion of Terry Davis. Resolutions will be posted soon on the AISWCD website. **There was a motion by Terry Davis, second by Roger Johnson to concur with the resolution committee on the resolutions. MCVV.**

MOU Update – Ivan Dozier covered this in his NRCS Report.

Farm Progress Show Update – Will be held September 1 – 3. June 18 is the next meeting. There will be 19 exhibitors in the tent. NRCS/AISWCD/ISWCDEA will be going together this year.

Illinois Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy – Tom Beyers made a statement regarding the NLRS. He acknowledged the SWCD's part in this effort, and stated there will be a lot of new partners and Ag groups. Tom encouraged directors to attend the meeting closest to them.

NRCS Client Gateway Update – Myron reported they had a good response so far.

NACD Summer Board Meeting – Will be held in Spokane, Washington. Myron Kirby, Tom Beyers will not be able to attend. Kenny Vosholler will be representing Illinois.

2015 Legislative Day Update – Tom Beyers reported he felt this was very successful and that everyone enjoyed the venue. The reception was a good turn out as well. Gina Bean reported there were 23 directors, 36 employees, and 11 partners in attendance. As near as they could tell, 19 Representatives and two Senators attended the reception.

New Business

Focus Area Committee & LUC/Area VP, Alternate Sign-up Sheets - Gina Bean passed out the sheets to be updated by board members.

2015 Resolutions – Resolution from White County on representation of districts. **A motion was made by Lee Bunting, seconded by Jerry Snodgrass not to support the resolution. Motion carried, 19 – 2, with Terry Davis, and Steve Stierwalt casting no votes.**

2015 – 1 – Access to FSA records – **Motion to support made by Jerry Snodgrass, seconded by Terry Bogner. MCVV.**

2015 – 2 - WRP – Property Tax Relief, Amend Property Tax Code – **Motion by Lee Bunting to support the resolution, seconded by Steve Fulling. MCVV.**

Bylaw Change – 2015 – 1 – AISWCD "In Good Standing Status" – After discussion, bylaw change was revised.

Motion to approved bylaw change was made by Lee Bunting, seconded by Barb Klinger. MCVV.

Vote on Precision Conservation Management – Tom Beyers explained that Laura Gentry from the Illinois Corn Growers had given a presentation to the Executive Committee regarding working with IL Corn Growers to set up a pilot program. The three targeted areas in the pilot would be McLean, Christian/Sangamon, and Champaign area. This would place a water quality specialist in each of three areas with AISWCD managing the workforce. This will be a two year program, with the third year rolled out statewide. The concept was approved by the Executive Committee. Myron indicated board approval was needed on continuing to negotiate. **A motion was made by Tom Beyers, seconded by Glen Bowers to move forward on negotiations. MCVV.**

Nominating Committee – Terry Davis, Nominating Committee Chairman gave the report and presented the slate of nominations to be placed on the ballot and approved by the board. The slate consisted of the same officers as last year. **Roger Johnson made a motion to approve the slate, with Barb Klinger seconding the motion. MCVV.**

Committee Reports:

Executive – Myron reported most everything had been reported on previously. Executive board approved Kelly attending Executive Director Conference. He asked for motion to approve Kelly attending the Executive Director Conference in Ohio in August.

Forestry – David McCormick reported the only action item was to approve Floyd Pagle from Effingham County for Forestry Award, as asked for the board's approval. **Motion to approve the Forestry Committee's choice in award winner was made by Randy Molitoris, seconded by Tom Beyers. MCVV.**

IL Rivers Coordinating Council – One meeting was held in March with the new leadership.

Communications – Steve Stierwalt gave the report. Steve reported Kelly had created a Facebook page. The

idea of doing a short video for a future Summer Conference for You Tube. Benefit for Soil & Water Conservation Districts' was held at the committee meeting. No action items.

Education – Jerry Snodgrass gave the report. Jerry announced winners of the Teacher of the Year Awards. Gina Bean will send out letters to those applicants that were not chosen. **A motion by Jerry Snodgrass to approve the committee's choices, seconded by Lee Bunting. MCVV.** No other action items.

Planning - Van Bitner gave the report. Van gave a Summer Conference update, and reminded the group the title of the conference is "What's the Buzz"? Nine out of ten spots in the exhibit hall have been filled. He also went over the items for the big ten auction. There are four farm family entries. Van reported there had been one bid for 2016 Summer Conference from the Hilton for \$16,000, and indicated the committee felt that was too high. . Van also mentioned that Kelly had been approached about two gentlemen that raise money for concerts for a fee and the money would go to SWCD's. More information is needed, and Kelly will report on this at a later date. There were no action items for vote.

Legislative – Tom Beyers said most everything had been covered previously. There were no action items.

Financial – Kenny Vosholler gave the report. Insurance coverage will now be covered for people who do not have insurance with CMS, but do have insurance with Standard at an additional cost. The Financial Committee voted with approval from the board to cover cost of vision insurance for AISWCD staff, and grant employees.

Motion by Roger Johnson, second by Don Beisiegel to approve cost of vision insurance for the above employees. MCVV. There are some bank fees on the financial report for charges for checks in and out. Myron and Kelly are going to go to the bank and investigate. The AISWCD was asked to be a co-sponsor in the cost of supplying frames for employee service award winners. Cost last year was \$116.81. **Motion by Lee Bunting, second by Barb Klinger to help sponsor the cost of frames. A motion was made by Roger Johnson, seconded A motion was made by Lee Bunting, second by Barb Klinger to give the Auditor authority to pursue trying to get the 501C3 status back from IRS, without having to apply for a new one. MCVV.** The Auditor will also give a report at Summer Conference.

Urban Community & Conservation – Jerry Snodgrass gave the report. There will be CPESC training at Summer Conference, more information to follow. There will also be training at the Illinois River Council Conference October 27-29, and there will be a discount for SWCD employees. Jerry would like suggestions for the Urban Community & Conservation Committee; the other Co-Chair for the Committee has not attended a meeting in over the year, and he is not an urban director so any suggestions would be appreciated.

Area VP Reports

Area 1 – Jerry Snodgrass reported he had attended several different Land Use Council meetings. Barb Klinger reported her Land Use Council (1) is only meeting twice a year.

Area 2 – David McCormick -- No Report

Area 3 – Steve Stierwalt – No Report

Area 4 – Glen Bowers reported he intends to send out a letter to his Land Use Councils about nutrient loss reduction, funding, and remind them of the challenges.

A motion was made by Barb Klinger, seconded by Terry Bogner to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 12:32 pm.

Minutes taken and transcribed by: Cindy Moon