

Legislative Focus Area Committee Meeting Minutes
AISWCD Quarterly Board- Northfield Inn
June 8, 2015

Members/Advisors Present:

Jason Anderson
Tom Beyers
Terry Bogner
Glen Bowers
Dick Breckenridge, IEPA
Sue Davis
Terry Davis
Mike Hoffmann, AISWCD Lobbyist
Ken Kesler
Dale Shumaker
Kelly Thompson
Catherine Dunn
Steve Stierwalt

Members/Advisors Absent:

Tessa Chadwick, NRCS
Steve Chard, IDOA
Steve Fulling
Joe Rothermel

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Tom Beyers. Roll Call was done by Sue Davis.

Approve Agenda-A motion was made by Jason Anderson and seconded by Steve Stierwalt to approve the Agenda as presented, motion carried.

Approve March 2015 minutes- A motion was made by Glen Bowers and seconded by Terry Bogner to approve the March 2015 minutes as presented, motion carried.

Legislative Update-Mike Hoffmann stated the FY15 funds have been suspended and for now the FY16 has passed the House and Senate at level funding for Districts but has not been sent to the Governor. Mike stated that Myron, Tom, Kelly and himself tried many times to get the FY15 money freed up and unsuspended but the GOMB (Governor's Office of Management and Budget) said no to all attempts. They will be trying to work over the summer to try and get this resolved but may not be able to if the Governor does not get his "Turnaround Agenda" approved.

There was some discussion of the Transect Survey and the efficiency of doing this with no funding and should it have been done? It was stated that IDOA needs to know that we need funding to do this.

Partner Reports

IEPA- Dick Breckenridge reported about the NLRs Roadshows that are being held throughout the State in the month of June and so far they have been very well received. IEPA hopes that farmers are getting the idea of the process of change for the NLRs. He spoke about the 319 Grants that continue and other funds that IEPA have.

OLD BUSINESS

Annual Meeting Resolution-There will be a By-Laws change from the Executive Board that deals with changing the AISWCD dues deadline to "be current if paid within 45 days of receiving District funds" instead of the January 1st deadline as it is now.

Legislative Day 2015 Update- There was very good attendance of Directors and Employees at 2015 Legislative Day. The reception at Boones was great and very well attended and there were more Legislators than the year before. It was stated to decide in February or March of 2016 what the dates would be for the 2016 Legislative Day.

NEW BUSINESS

2015 Annual Meeting Resolutions and Updates-Kelly Thompson said the Legislator of the Year, Rep. David Reis and Friend of Conservation, IEPA Director Lisa Bonnett plan to attend Summer Conference and there are plans to send an invite to Gov. Rauner for the Farm Family Banquet, this will be sent to the Governor's scheduler. There are 3 Resolutions that have been submitted for the Annual Meeting-one from White County and 2 from Rock Island County.

2016 Legislative Day Event-It was discussed to do the same as 2015 and at the same location, Boone's for the reception.

A motion was made by Terry Davis and seconded by Jason Anderson to adjourn, motion carried.

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