



67th AISWCD Annual Meeting & IL Land and Water Resources Conference

“What’s The BUZZ About Conservation?”

July 27-28, 2015

Northfield Inn - Springfield, IL

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PAGE 2 - 5	Agendas (Director’s Forum, Foundation, Annual Meeting)
PAGE 6 - 25	Minutes (Foundation and Annual Meeting/Board of Directors)
PAGE 26 - 32	Financial Statements (Audit/Budget)
PAGE 33 - 37	Partner/Committee Reports
PAGE 38 - 41	Rules for Business Meeting/Policies and Constitution
PAGE 42 - 51	By-Laws
PAGE 52 - 55	Resolutions

Welcome to the 67th Annual Meeting of the Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts and Illinois Land and Water Resources Conference.

We hope you enjoy the two day conference.

Thank you for your efforts in supporting and conserving our natural resources!



DIRECTOR'S FORUM

AGENDA

Monday, July 27, 2015—3:45 pm to 4:45 pm
Crystal/Diamond Rooms

Northfield Inn – Springfield, IL

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks—Myron Kirby, AISWCD President
2. Introductions and Roll Call (By Member Districts)—Van Bitner, Secretary
3. District Retirement Plan Presentation (15 minute limit) - Jim Gibbs
4. Approve District Voting Delegate Rules (Pages 38) —Van Bitner, Secretary
5. Membership Dues (Page 33) - Kenny Vosholler, Treasurer
6. 2014 Audit Review (Pages 26-29) - Kenny Vosholler, Treasurer
7. FY 2016 Proposed AISWCD Budget (Pages 30-32) - Kenny Vosholler, Treasurer
8. Resolutions/By-Law Amendment (Pages 52-55) - Tom Beyers, Vice President
9. Procedure for Election of Officers—Howard Heavner, Parliamentarian
 - Vice-President: One Year Term
 - Secretary: One Year Term
 - Treasurer: One Year Term
10. Introduction and Presentations from Candidates Running for Office—Terry Davis, Nominations Chairman
 - * Other Candidates for Office
11. Procedure for Area (1 & 3) Vice-Presidents and Alternates Election
 - *Tom Beyers, Vice-President
 - Currently:**
 - Area 1 Vice-President** = Jerry Snodgrass (Henry County)
 - Area 1 VP Alternate** = Chuck Hanley (Livingston County)

 - Area 3 Vice-President** = Steve Stierwalt (Champaign County)
 - Area 3 VP Alternate** = Kenny Hawthorne (Ford County)
12. Other Business
13. New Business
14. Adjournment



67th Annual Meeting

AGENDA

Tuesday, July 28, 2015 – 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm
Crystal/Diamond/Emerald Rooms

Northfield Inn – Springfield, IL

1. Call to Order - Myron Kirby, President
2. Invocation - Van Bitner, Secretary
3. Pledge of Allegiance - Tom Beyers, Vice-President
4. Roll Call (By Member Districts) - Van Bitner, Secretary
5. Introductions - Myron Kirby, President
 - A. Parliamentarian
 - B. AISWCD Officers
 - C. AISWCD STAFF and CRSs
 - D. Others
6. Approve District Voting Delegate Rules (Page 38)
7. Approval of 2014 Annual Meeting Minutes (Pages 6-7)
8. Approval of 2014-2015 Board Meeting Minutes (Pages 8-21)
9. Second Roll Call - Van Bitner, Secretary
10. Partner Reports
11. Resolutions and By-Law Amendment (Pages 52-55)- Tom Beyers, Vice President
12. Old Business
 - B. Resolution/Policy Book : Terminate and Archive Non Relevant Resolutions
13. New Business
 - A. Any new resolutions to come before the Voting Delegate Body
 - B. Precision Conservation Management Program
 - C. Client Gateway Update
14. Election of Officers - Terry Davis, Nominating Committee Chairman
 - A. Vice President One Year Term
 - B. Secretary One Year Term
 - C. Treasurer One Year Term

(Continued on next page)

67th Annual Meeting Agenda (Continued)

15. Area Vice-Presidents and Alternates Elections—Tom Beyers, Vice President

- A. Area 2 Election
- B. Area 4 Election

Currently:

Area 1 Vice-President = Jerry Snodgrass (Henry County) Area 3 Vice-President = Steve Stierwalt (Champaign County)
Area 1 VP Alternate = Chuck Hanley (Livingston County) Area 3 VP Alternate = Kenny Hawthorne (Ford County)

16. Confirmation—Board of Directors

17. Officers Reports

- A. President: Myron Kirby
- B. Vice President: Tom Beyers
- C. Treasurer: Kenny Vosholler
- D. Secretary: Van Bitner
- E. Executive Director: Kelly Thompson

18. Comments from Focus Area Committee/Taskforce Chairpersons

- A. Communications: Steve Stierwalt
- B. Education: Jerry Snodgrass
- C. Executive: Myron Kirby
- D. Financial Management: Kenny Vosholler
- E. Forestry: David McCormick
- F. Legislative: Tom Beyers
- G. Planning: Van Bitner
- H. Urban Community and Conservation: Jerry Snodgrass and Gerard Fabrizio
- I. Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy Taskforce

19. Financial Report—Kenny Vosholler, Treasurer

- A. Membership Dues 2015
- B. Acceptance of 2014 Audit (Pages 26-29)
- C. 2016 Proposed AISWCD Budget (Pages 30-32)

20. Adjourn for Illinois SWCD Foundation Meeting (Page 5)

What's the BUZZ
About Conservation?



35th Annual Foundation

AGENDA

*Tuesday, July 28, 2015—Following Business Meeting
Crystal/Diamond/Emerald Rooms*

Northfield Inn – Springfield, IL

1. Call to order—Myron Kirby, President
2. Roll Call (By Member Districts)—Van Bitner, Secretary
3. Approval of 2014— 34th Annual Meeting Foundation Minutes (Page 22)
4. Approval of 2014-2015 Foundation Meeting Minutes (Pages 23-25)
5. Old Business
6. New Business
 - A. Election of Board of Directors
 - B. Other
7. Adjournment

66th AISWCD Annual Business Meeting

July 29, 2015

Northfield Inn Conference Center—Springfield, IL

Quorum Present

Call to Order: President Lonnie Wilson called meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. with invocation given by Secretary Van Bitner and Pledge of Allegiance lead by Vice-President Tom Beyers.

ATTENDANCE: Roll Call was done by Secretary Van Bitner with 60 Voting Delegates Present. Introductions of Parliamentarian-Howard Heavner, officers, AISWCD Office Staff, Watershed Program Coordinator, and CREP Resource Specialists was done by President Wilson.

Approve District Voting Delegate Rules:

First: Will South Cook Second: Champaign Carried: All

Approve 2013 Annual Meeting Minutes:

First: Livingston Second: Lee Carried: All

Approve 2013-2014 Board Mtg Minutes:

2014 June QB Mtg Minutes need to be amended for the June Resolutions 2 & 3 to No position; then approved.

First: Warren Second: Crawford Carried: All

PARTNER REPORTS: Reports given by AISWCD Auxiliary, ISWCDEA, IDOA, IDNR, NRCS, NACD, FSA, and Mike Hoffman.

Resolutions & By-Law Amendment: Vice-President Tom Beyers then reviewed the Resolutions;

Resolution 2014-1 IL Certainty Program approved.

First: Will South Cook Second: Marion Carried: All

Resolution 2014-2 Nutrient Reduction Strategy amended and then approved

2014-3 Soil Health Program amended and then approved

By-Law Amendment approved with option 2.

Old Business: None reported.

New Business: No other Resolutions brought forth to the Voting Delegates.

Election of Officers: Slate submitted: Gerard Fabrizius-President for two year term; Tom Beyers-Vice-President for one year term; Van Bitner-Secretary for one year term; Kenny Vosholler-Treasurer for one year term.

Nominated from the floor: Myron Kirby-President for two year term by Chuck Hanley (Livingston County) Iroquois County Second-ed. Candidates came forward to give reasons why they should be elected. Voting Delegates were given the opportunity to give their support for a candidate. Steve Stierwalt (Champaign) and Jim Singer (North Cook) both spoke in favor of Gerard Fabrizius. Ballots were handed out and Voting Delegates submitted their selections. Ballots were counted by Nominating Committee Chairman and overseen by Parliamentarian. Announcement was made of the new AISWCD President for two year term: Myron Kirby, DeWitt County SWCD. All other offices were unchallenged and voted into office for one year terms.

66th AISWCD Annual Business Meeting (Continued)

Area Vice Presidents & Alternate Elections: Vice-President Tom Beyers asked Areas 2 and 4 to meet at the side of the room to elect their Vice President and Alternate for a two year term. Area II: Dave McCormick-Brown County; Alternate-John Winkelman-Cass County; Area IV: Glen Bowers-Washing County; Alternate-Steve Fulling-Crawford County.

Confirmation of Board:

First: Iroquois

Second: Effingham

Carried: Yes

Future Annual Meeting Date & Location: Secretary Van Bitner reported the 2015 67th AISWCD Annual Meeting/Summer Conference would be held on Monday, July 27, and Tuesday, July 28, 2015 at the Northfield Inn, Suites and Conference Center.

Officers Reports: Due to time constraints-President Wilson asked members to see his report in the voting delegate packet; Vice-President Tom Beyers gave a brief Legislative Report; Treasurer Kenny Vosholler had no comment; and Secretary Van Bitner had no comment. Rich Nichols came forward and gave some departing words and asked members to see his report in voting delegate packet and thanked everyone for allowing him to work and serve with the best people in the business. Rich received a standing ovation.

Comments from FAC Chairmen: No comments from anyone except President Wilson for the Executive Committee on Cost Savings for the AISWCD office and Vice-President Tom Beyers on the 2014 Legislative Day and Reception.

Financial Report: Treasurer Kenny Vosholler asked members to see page 39 in the packet with the membership dues update. Ten districts had not paid and two had only paid partial dues. Kenny introduced Tim Cravens with Pehlman & Dold, our auditing firm to address the members. Mr. Cravens went over the 2013 Audit for both the AISWCD and Foundation. Audit was approved; Kenny then asked members to look over the 2015 Proposed AISWCD Budget in the packet and asked if there were any questions. None were brought forth.

The amount brought in from the live auction was \$6162.50.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned to the ISWCDF Meeting at 12:20 p.m.

Minutes taken by: Sherry Finn and Sue Davis

Minutes transcribed by: Sherry Finn and Gina Bean

AISWCD Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

AISWCD Quarterly Board

Northfield Inn, Springfield, IL

December 9, 2014

Present:

Myron Kirby, President
Tom Beyers, V. President
Van Bitner, Secretary
Kenny Vosholler, Treasurer
Jerry Snodgrass, Area 1 VP
David McCormick, Area 2 VP
Steve Stierwalt, Area 3 VP
Lee Bunting, LUC 3
Terry Davis, LUC 4
Dan Duval, LUC 5
Randy Molitoris, LUC 6
Joe Rothermel, LUC 7
Jason Anderson, LUC 9
Daniel Doedtman, LUC 10
Steve Fulling, LUC 11
Don Beisiegel, LUC 12
Dale Shumaker, LUC 15
Gerard Fabrizio, LUC 16
Marie Bunting, AISWCD Auxiliary
Sondra Baker, ISWCDEA Co-Chair
Keith Livesay, ISWCDEA for Kara Downin
Kelly Thompson, AISWCD
Gina Bean, AISWCD
Matt Hanauer, AISWCD

Absent:

Lonnie Wilson, Past President, LUC 2
Glen Bowers, Area 4 VP
Barb Klinger, LUC 1
Darrell Roegge, LUC 8
Roger Johnson, LUC 13
Tom Anderson, LUC 14
Kara Downin, ISWCDEA Co-Chair

The meeting was called to order by Myron Kirby at 8:36 am.

Approval of Agenda: Approved with an update by Myron Kirby to add the topic of the Client Gateway to New Business.

Motion: Don Beisiegel 2nd: Lee Bunting Approved: All

Approval of June 2014 Minutes: The minutes were not included in the Board Member packet. Minutes from the June 2014 meeting were shown using a projector. Terry Davis made the comment to change Glen Bowers to say he is from Washington County SWCD.

Motion: Steve Stierwalt 2nd: Steve Fulling Approved: All

OLD BUSINESS:

Dues Update - Gina Bean reported that she and the auditor have not been able to find a spread sheet on Sherry Finn's computer of who has paid and how much they have paid. Since Districts have not been paid since the last time Sherry reported, Gina gave those numbers. 8 Districts have not paid any dues, 4 Districts have only paid the second installment and 2 Districts have paid a portion of their dues. Gina did report that Boone County had paid \$764.55 since Sherry's last report, but until a spreadsheet can be made, Gina does not know which category they are in. Myron Kirby suggested to the Board that if they know of a Districts that has paid and it isn't listed later, to let Gina know. Myron would like to visit all of the non-dues paying Districts in the near future.

604B Grant Update - Matt Hanauer introduced himself to the group and let them know he is there to help Districts implement watershed grants. He has also helped write a RCPP grant for American Farmland Trust and they are working closely with Districts. The IUM is finished but he is continuing to work on basic standard updates. There was discussion from the group and Kelly Thompson reminded everyone that the 604B grant is for outreach and education.

CREP Grant Update - Gina Bean reported that all six positions are full. Sarah Still replaced Jeremy Pruden in Brown county starting on November 1, 2014. All Housing Districts are up to date on Housing District payments. It was asked if the Association could have someone at the next meeting give a partner report that deals with the other CREP in Districts.

Board of Directors: December 2014 Quarterly Board Minutes (Continued)

2015 State Budget Update - Myron Kirby reported that the budget is unknown with the new Governor. Kelly Thompson has been in contact with the transition team.

Policy Book Update - Tom Beyers reported that the policy book has been compiled from the last 10 years' resolutions. Rich Nichols has made recommendations and the book will be looked at during the March Quarterly Board meeting.

MOU Update - Sondra Baker reported on two MOU's. The first is the one the ISWCDEA was involved in with NRCS. She reported that Ivan Dozier has talked with them and he will be looking into a template in the next couple of months. The second MOU is the one with FFA concerning the Envirothon. It has been signed by both parties. In this agreement FFA will still pay the \$100 for FFA teams to compete at the state competition. They will also be represented on the taskforce, add AISWCD and SWCDs to media outlets they use, and actively look for sponsorships. The Envirothon coordinators will contact FFA as soon as LUC competitions are done so FFA can check if students are current members. After the state competition, all scores will be sent to FFA.

NEW BUSINESS:

AISWCD Staff Changes - Myron Kirby reported that Kelly Thompson is the new Executive Director and Gina Bean is the new Administrative Coordinator. He updated the Board on the missing funds situation that took place in September:

He stated that at the September 9, 2014 Executive Committee meeting, Sherry Finn had reported that her last day at AISWCD would be September 30, 2014. Kelly took over as Executive Director on September 16, 2014 and on September 18, 2014, while looking for papers in Sherry's office, she came across a drawer that had over \$20,000 in uncashed checks. Myron was called the next morning and decided at that time to let Sherry be done at AISWCD to take care of personal matters at home. Uncashed checks were deposited that day and Districts were notified if their check had been uncashed for some time. On September 24, 2014, Kelly, Myron, and Kenny Vosholler went to the bank and found that no deposits had been made since May. At this time it was decided to have an exit audit. The executive board was contacted and let known of the matter.

While doing some digging in QuickBooks Gina Bean found a questionable deposit. In QuickBooks it showed that \$350 in cash had been deposited for the petty cash taken out that year. There was also a check for \$2.00 from Whiteside County SWCD. Gina looked at the bank statement online and it showed no cash had been deposited and that a check from Whiteside County SWCD for \$352.00 had been deposited. The auditors would not have noticed this unless they would have looked at the bank statement specifically. Auction money was not entered so it was untraceable. After having the auditor do more digging, it was found that \$8,241.00 was missing in cash.

Myron Kirby and Kelly Thompson made many attempts to contact Sherry Finn with no success. A certified letter was sent to her home. Myron called her family and that is when Sherry contacted him. She met with Myron, Kelly, Van Bitner, and Gina Bean at the AISWCD office on October 15, 2014. She was given two options. Option one: pay \$10,000 plus \$5,000 for misappropriated funds. Option two: AISWCD could turn in the missing funds to their insurance company, but a police report would have to be filed. Sherry chose option one and met Myron and Kelly that Saturday with \$15,000.00 that was deposited into the account later that day. While there, Sherry also had to sign a letter, which Myron read to the Board, stating that this incident could be known to anyone. She also signed away her last paycheck and two vacation days.

Myron let the Board know that the AISWCD are still trying to get the books in order. They could not find that any checks were written to other banks.

Gerard Fabrizio let the Board know that his Land Use Council was upset about the situation. Myron Kirby let him know that he understood and that when the Board would ask Sherry Finn about matters they were told it was taken care of. If someone steals from AISWCD they will be penalized. This is the reason for the open letter. With this letter being signed, the Board and staff can openly talk about the situation. Myron assured everyone that this is their Association. There will be numbered receipts at the auction this year. There will be a copy for the payee and one for the auditor. Steps are being taken so this does not happen again. There are two signatures on everything money related in the office. Myron will also be meeting with the auditors every year so they are aware of money intake. He also suggested not changing auditors every three years like had been done in the past.

Terry Davis and Lee Bunting commended the staff and Myron Kirby on how the situation was handled and brought to the Districts. It was suggested that expense reports be made easier to read at Quarterly Boards.

Results of Exit Audit - Myron Kirby reported that the auditors were able to find \$8241.00 in missing funds in the form of cash.

2015 Farm Progress Show - Kelly Thompson reported that planning has started for the 2015 Farm Progress Show. The event will take place on September 1, 2, 3 in Decatur, IL.

Board of Directors: December 2014 Quarterly Board Minutes (Continued)

NACD North Central Region - Tom Beyers reported that Lonnie Wilson will be stepping down as Chairman of the NACD North Central Region. The national event for Envirothon will be taking place in Missouri in 2015.

NACD Annual Meeting

Scholarship Recipient - Kelly Thompson reported that Myron Kirby was the NACD scholarship recipient. He will take \$400.00 off of his registration costs.

NACD Auction Item - Jerry Snodgrass reported that he has a contact in his hometown that will sell the Association a model DEF15 Rifle for \$400.00. It will be engraved with the date, location and NACD logo.

The board made and passed Myron Kirby as the Delegate and Tom Beyers as the Alternate.

Motion: Van Bitner 2nd: Steve Fulling Approved: All

The motion to close nominations was made by Dan Doedtman and 2nd by Don Beisiegel.

Waters of the US (WOTUS) - Kelly Thompson reported that since comments from Districts were on both sides, the Association could not take a position.

Illinois Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy - Myron Kirby let the group know that the Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy is out for comment until January 24, 2015. It is located on the AISWCD website and Kelly Thompson has sent an email with links.

Client Gateway - The Board passed a motion for AISWCD and NRCS to enter into an agreement concerning the new Client Gateway and for AISWCD to be the administrator. Myron Kirby reported that Ivan Dozier had met with him, Kelly Thompson, Sondra Baker, and Keith Livesay and informed them that there is a national initiative in updating NRCS's entire computer system. This will allow landowners to electronically let offices know if there is a problem on their land. Through this system, they will also be able to set up appointments, sign contracts, and certify for payments electronically. This is an opportunity for Districts to earn more money.

Ivan Dozier had informed Myron Kirby that he did not have the staff to administer this program and that is why it was being offered to AISWCD. With this agreement, the Districts would receive \$450,000 to be split and AISWCD will be receiving \$50,000 to administer it. If all 97 Districts participate it would allow each District to earn \$4639.17. This program is a great way to work with partners to gain new money for the Districts.

The motion to allow AISWCD to enter into an agreement with NRCS on the new client gateway and be the administrator of the program was made.

Discussion: Tom Beyers pointed out that this is a nationwide effort. In Illinois, Ivan Dozier has looked at the Association and that is a positive thing.

1st: Kenny Vosholler 2nd: Tom Beyers Approved: All

PARTNER REPORTS:

IDOA (Steve Chard)- Bob Flider will no longer be the Director of IDOA with the new Governor in place. The transition team has started, but he did not know who will be the new Director. The first of the FY2015 allocations should be in the Districts' accounts soon. He encouraged Districts to comment how they see fit with the Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy. He also encouraged everyone to attend the Conservation Cropping seminars that will take place early 2015. There are two retirements this year at IDOA. Randy Grove and Alan Gulso will be retiring December 31, 2014. Steve Chard did not know when those two positions would be replaced. As of now, the work load will be spread out.

NRCS (Ivan Dozier)-NRCS will be going from five administration areas to four. There will be 34 District Conservationists in the state. There are no plans right now to close offices. Ivan Dozier reported that they are not under a hiring freeze currently. There are 90 people eligible to retire in the next five years. There are plans to hire 11 students and nine graduates. Ivan Dozier spoke more on the client gateway stating it was a national initiative to update the computer system. They learned from the pilot program and are willing to try again. With this program, landowners will be able to set up appointments, sign contracts, and certify for payment all electronically. He does not want to bring in a third party to administer the client gateway, and if he had to have his own staff administer it, it would cost \$350,000 to \$400,000. If AISWCD is the administering party, the Districts will receive \$450,000 to split.

Board of Directors: December 2014 Quarterly Board Minutes (Continued)

Partner Reports (Continued)

IEPA (Dick Breckenridge)- Director Lisa Bonnett sent her regards and there is a lot of support to keep her on as Director. Comments for the Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy are open until January 24, 2015. He passed around handouts, one concerning environment college classes and certificates at Lincoln Land Community College. Kelly Thompson has been asked to be on the advisory board for the education grant.

ISWCDEA (Sondra Baker and Keith Livesay) – The registration fee for this year's Winter Training was raised to \$20. There were five more registrations than last year. All five regions were represented. Keith Livesay reported that he appreciates the Directors and he also thanked the partners.

Envirothon (Sondra Baker)- This year's competition will take place April 29 and 30, 2015. Registrations are due to Sondra Baker by April 10, 2015. All permission slips must be turned in by April 17, 2015. Sondra is currently contacting sponsors. If anyone knows of anyone willing to donate, please contact her. She would like to make Envirothon self-sustaining for the future.

SWCD Insurance (Melissa Cauble)-Reported and handouts are in the packet.

AISWCD Executive Director (Kelly Thompson)- Kelly Thompson will now be doing bi-weekly reports instead of weekly reports. No one on the board could remember that this was ever voted on.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Executive (Myron Kirby) - Districts not in good standing will not be able to participate in the new agreement with NRCS concerning the Client Gateway. AISWCD will be administering the agreement and in order for Districts to participate they must be in good standing.

Forestry (Terry Davis) - The new state forester is Tom Wilson. He is the type of person the committee was hoping would get hired when they wrote their letter asking for a new state forester to be selected soon.

Auxiliary (Marie Bunting) - Debbie Ruff from Livingston County SWCD was on the team that reviewed this year's NACD Local Heroes, Your Hardworking Pollinators. During the NACD Annual Meeting, the auxiliary will be taking a tour where the Mardi Gras floats are made. Marie Bunting passed around tickets and cash bags for anyone who wanted to sign up for the quilt raffle.

Illinois Rivers Coordinating Council (Lee Bunting) - The Council has met twice since the June Quarterly Board meetings. They are looking to raise the amount from \$0.10/pound to harvest Asian Carp out of the River. They are also looking at ways to keep the Asian Carp out of Lake Michigan. If anyone would like to join the Illinois, Mississippi, Wabash, or Ohio Rivers Coordinating Councils talk to Kelly Thompson or Lee Bunting.

Communications (Steve Stierwalt) - The committee understands that Legislative Day is a way for everyone to spread the word to Legislators about the Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy. The committee looked at last year's handouts. Steve Stierwalt reported that Governor Rauner has said he wants to put a farmer in the Director seat at IDOA.

Legislative (Tom Beyers) – Legislative Day 2015 was discussed.

A motion was made that this year's Legislative Day and Quarterly Boards be the following:

March 9, 2015 - Executive Board and FAC

March 10, 2015 – Legislative Day with a reception at Boones Saloon

March 11, 2015 – Full Board meeting

1st: Tom Beyers 2nd: Jerry Snodgrass *Approved:* Discussion took place.

Motion was amended:

March 10, 2015 – Legislative Day with a reception at Boones Saloon and Executive Meeting afterwards.

March 11, 2015 – FAC meetings in the morning and full Board meeting in the afternoon.

1st: Tom Beyers 2nd: Terry Davis *Approved: All*

The Legislative Committee is allowing Mike Hoffmann to handle the Illinois Envirothon Day request.

Board of Directors: December 2014 Quarterly Board Minutes (Continued)

Committee Reports (Continued)

Education (Jerry Snodgrass) - In the meeting, Valerie Keener reported that the Monarch Butterfly is being considered to be put on the endangered species list. There is also a concern that unless a college is a four year college, continuing education classes will not be put on. She or Jerry Snodgrass will send the office information that can be sent out IL ALL. The Teacher of the Year and George McKibben Scholarship applications have been updated for 2015.

A motion was made to change in the Teacher of the Year application that teachers no longer have to be full time.

1st: Don Beisiegel 2nd: Lee Bunting Approved: All

Planning (Van Bitner) - During Van Bitner's report the Board voted that this year's Annual Meeting theme will be "What's the Buzz About Conservation?" It will go along with the NACD poster contest them which is "Local Heroes, Your Hard working Pollinators."

The Board voted on the following items:

Motion to approve the 2015 theme as "What's the Buzz About Conservation?"

1st: Van Bitner 2nd: Steve Fulling Approved: All

Motion to let planning committee move forward with planning a Sunday conservation tour in Bloomington to a bee farm

1st: Van Bitner 2nd: Steve Fulling Approved: All

Motion to allow the planning committee to come up with a logo that goes along with the 2015 theme

1st: Van Bitner 2nd: Steve Stierwalt Approved: ALL

The committee is also looking into a Sunday tour to a bee farm in Bloomington. The Board voted to let the Planning Committee continue researching this idea. The Annual Meeting will be July 27 and July 28, 2015 at the Northfield Inn in Springfield. The Board voted to allow the Planning Committee to come up with a logo that will go along with the theme.

Financials (Kenny Vosholler) - Due to the turnover in the office, the Board tabled the December 31, 2014 financial discussion until the March Quarterly Boards.

Motion made by: Tom Beyers 2nd: Dan Doedtman Approved: All

The 2015 budget was presented and adjustments were made. The budget was accepted as proposed.

Motion made by: Tom Beyers 2nd: Jerry Snodgrass Approved: All

A motion was made to allow Kenny Vosholler, the treasurer, to transfer funds he deemed necessary from the Building Account to the General Fund Account with the creation of a line item showing funds had been taken out and replaced.

Motion made by : Terry Davis 2nd: Steve Stierwalt Approved: All

At this time, the staff were asked to leave the room so raises/bonuses could be discussed. Van Bitner, secretary, took notes.

A motion was made to give a 2.5% salary increase to the CREP employees who have been there longer than a year and for the others to receive the same raise on their one year anniversary.

Motion made by: Lee Bunting 2nd: Don Beisiegel Approved: All

A motion was made for each CREP employee to receive a \$100.00 Christmas bonus.

Motion made by: Tom Beyers 2nd: Dale Shumaker Approved: Discussion

The motion was amended for the following Christmas bonuses:

Sheryl Phillips, Tim Royer, Jake Vancil, and Dan Sahm to receive \$500.00

Catherine Dunn to receive \$250.00

Sarah Still to receive \$100.00

Motion made by: Terry Davis 2nd: Dale Shumaker

A vote was done by a raise of hands: 10 yes, 6 no. The amendment and motion was passed.

Urban Community & Conservation (Jerry Snodgrass and Gerard Fabrizio) - Gerard Fabrizio reported that the North Eastern Illinois Legislator tour had been canceled due to low attendance. He reported that AISWCD had paid \$331.22 for mailings that were sent out.

Board of Directors: December 2014 Quarterly Board Minutes (Continued)

AREA VP REPORTS:

Area 1 (Jerry Snodgrass) - No Report

Area 2 (David McCormick) - No Report

Area 3 (Steve Stierwalt) - No Report

Area 4 (Glen Bowers) - Tom Beyers reported that he and Glen Bowers had been at a meeting where Glen Bowers commented on how the office and directors handled the issue of missing funds. He thought the office handled it as best as they could. At this meeting there was also a speaker on Gypsum.

The meeting was adjourned by Myron Kirby at 1:33pm.

1st: Terry Davis 2nd: Dan Doedtman Approved: All

Minutes taken by : Gina Bean, AISWCD Administrative Coordinator

**AISWCD Board meeting
March Quarterly Board
March 9, 2015
Northfield Inn & Suites**

Present

Myron Kirby, President
Tom Beyers, Vice President
Van Bitner, Secretary
Kenny Vosholler, Treasurer
Lonnie Wilson, Past President
Steve Stierwalt, Area III VP
Glen Bowers, Area IV VP
Carlyn Light, Area IV AP
Barb Klinger, Council 1
Terry Bogner, Council 2
Lee Bunting, Council 3
Terry Davis, Council 4
Dan Duval, Council 5
Randy Molitoris, Council 6
Joe Rothermel, Council 7
Darrell Roegge, Council 8 (Left Early)
Jason Anderson, Council 9
Steve Fulling, Council 11
Don Beisiegel, Council 12
Dale Shumaker, Council 15
Marie Bunting, Auxiliary President (Arrived Late)
Sondra Baker, ISWCDEA AC Co-Chair
Kara Downin, ISWCDEA RC Co-Chair (Left Early)
Kelly Thompson, AISWCD
Gina Bean, AISWCD
Matt Hanauer, AISWCD

Absent

Jerry Snodgrass, Area 1 VP
David McCormick, Area II VP
Daniel Doedtman, Council 10
Roger Johnson, Council 13
Tom Anderson, Council 14
Gerald Fabrizius, Council 16
Mike Hoffman, Lobbyist

Call to Order

Myron Kirby, AISWCD President called the meeting to order at 1:28 pm.

Roll Call

Roll call was taken by Secretary Van Bitner.

Approve Agenda

The agenda was reviewed. A motion was made by Glen Bowers, second by Jason Anderson to approve the agenda. **MCVV.**

Minutes

Motion to approve the December 2014 Quarterly Board Meeting minutes was made by Tom Beyers, seconded by Don Beisiegel. MCVV.

Partner Reports

IDOA (Steve Chard) – Steve announced that Phillip Nelson was the New Director. He said the director is working hard to learn all the programs and is the process of setting senior staff. Steve commented the new director has a lot of energy, and a lot of new ideas. The FY16 budget is flat. No cuts so far. FY15 funds have not all be received as yet. There is a 1.6 billion dollar hole to fill this fiscal year. Mainly because the State sales tax increase lapsed. The prior administration allegedly spent money they shouldn't have towards the end of the administration. All programs and funding are being scrutinized at the present time to help fill that gap including district operations grant, program dollars, etc. Steve touched on Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy. Comment are being reviewed by IEPA. There was good attendance at all the Conservation Cropping Seminars held throughout the State.

NRCS – No presence. Myron said Ivan Dozier was on the phone with the Executive Committee the day before providing input.

Board of Directors: March 2015 Quarterly Board Minutes (Continued)

Partner Reports (Continued)

IEPA– Dick Breckenridge gave the report. Dick reported IEPA had been able to maintain their budget. They have a new Deputy Director. He would like AISWCD Officers to meet with Director Barnett, so she understands their commitment to the Nutrient Management Strategy. Districts need a written plan in place in case money becomes available as far as Conservation in the county or watershed.

IDNR – A written report was included in the packet. There was no presence at the AISWCD board meeting.

Forestry Development Council – Bill Gradle gave a report. There was also a report in the packet. Bill passed out a map showing oak/hickory forest land health in Illinois. The council would like help in the outreach with grants for cost-share.

National Great Rivers Research and Education Center – Jake Hendee gave the report. NGRREC is a partnership through University of Illinois, Natural Survey and Lewis and Clark Community College. The field station is in East Alton. They are dedicated to large river systems and the watersheds that feed them. Jake discussed CREP within Kaskaskia River Basin with the AISWCD Board.

FSA – Rick Braden gave an oral report also. Rick reported that FSA is in pretty good shape. They have a decent budget, with money allocated for Farm Bill training. They are going to try to do some training with FSA field office employees on customer service training internal. Orientation meetings throughout the state has been held for County Committees. FSA has hired ninety temps. They were originally scheduled to work until April 1, but Rick said he hopes to get that extended until September 30th. There are 198,000 farms in Illinois. The amount participating in the election was 157,000.

Council of Best Management Practices – A written report was provided in the Quarterly Board packet.

ISWCDEA – Sondra Baker, and Kara Downin, ISWCDEA Co-Chairs, gave the report. Written report is on page 49 of the March QB packet.

Envirothon – Sondra Baker reported on the upcoming Envirothon.

Insurance - Melissa Cauble gave the insurance report. The January and February report was provided in the March Quarterly Board packet.

SWCD Insurance – Melissa Cauble, Insurance Administrator, gave the insurance report for February, which was provided in the handouts (attached to minutes). Melissa has registered for the HPR seminar, which is put on by Central Management Services which is on April 23, at the Northfield Inn in Springfield. Open enrollment begins May 1 – June 15, 2013. Annual Payroll audit will be conducted at the end of the fiscal year.

AISWCD Executive Director – No oral report.

Old Business

Dues Update – Seventeen of the districts have not paid dues.

Grant Update – Matt Hanauer reported. Some of the standards are being brought up to date. AISWCD will be re-applying for a 604B grant in August.

CREP Grant Report – Gina Bean introduced the Crep Resource Specialists.

FY2015 State Budget Update – Myron discussed this with the board, and reiterated how important Tuesday's Legislative Visits were. Kelly Thompson thanked the ISWCDEA employees for helping to get requested figures from districts together on the Friday before.

Policy Book Update – Tom Beyers reported a book has been compiled (records prior to 2004) containing resolutions. Thirty two resolutions are contained in the book to date. Sixteen – eighteen have been completed and will be terminated.

MOU Update – No update, still in progress.

Farm Progress Show Update – There will be some new things this year, with some new partners. The Conservation Police Officers may participate this year.

Board of Directors: March 2015 Quarterly Board Minutes (Continued)

Old Business (Continued)

NACD North Central/NACD Annual Meeting Update – Tom Beyers reported. Myron Kirby is the new Vice President of the North Central Region.

Illinois Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy – The Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy must be included in the Long Range Plan for districts this year.

Lee Bunting made a motion for the AISWCD President to appoint a Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy Task Force. Terry Davis seconded the motion. MCVV.

The following people will be on the task force: Myron Kirby, Lee Bunting, Terry Davis, Steve Stierwalt, Kara Downing, Steve Fulling, Don Beisiegel, Tom Beyers, and Kelly Thompson. They will plan to have a task force meeting at every quarterly board, with the first meeting being that day after the board meeting.

NRCS Client Gateway Update – Steve Stierwalt provided an update. Myron and Kelly will be meeting with Ivan Dozier this week. They will send out a report to IL All.

New Business

NACD Summer Board Meeting, Spokane, Washington - Myron Kirby reported he would be unable to attend and ask for a volunteer. **Steve Stierwalt made a motion, seconded by Randy Molitoris, for Myron to appoint someone. MCVV.**

Committee Reports:

Executive – Terry Davis made a motion for Kelly to hire a non-paid intern for the summer. **MCVV.**

Forestry – Terry Davis gave the report. He discussed the IFA map that Bill Gradle passed out earlier. **Terry Davis made a motion to support IFA's grant, seconded by Dale Shumaker. MCVV.** Terry also thanked the CREP Specialists for attending.

AISWCD Auxiliary – Marie Bunting gave the report. Planning is underway for the Annual Meeting, following the theme of hardworking pollinators. The Auxiliary will host a post Farm Family Awards Reception. Marie also reported the NACD National Poster Winner, 9-12th grade, was from DeKalb County SWCD.

IL Rivers Coordinating Council – Lee Bunting reported with the new state leaders, he has not heard anything. The last meeting was in November 2014.

Communications – There were no action items. Steve Stierwalt gave the report.

Education – Barb Klinger gave the report. There were no action items. Teacher of the Year was discussed, the Audobon Society will be sponsoring it again this year. There is one change on the entry this year. Criteria for entering is changed from full-time teacher to a teacher teaching in the classroom.

Planning - There be an Exhibit Hall bingo at Summer Conference, similar to those conducted at the NACD Annual Meeting. There will be a "Parade of Counties" held at the Annual Meeting. The Chairman or representative from each county will walk across the stage. Paul Rice will be the auctioneer for the auction on Monday night. He has suggested ten larger items (\$500.00 or more value). Van said perhaps Land Use Councils to pool money together for one large item. All other auction items will be up for bid at a silent auction. The possibility of entering a float in the 2016 State Fair Parade. The Planning Committee would like to give Kelly permission to explore several different venues for the 2016 Annual Meeting. A review of the draft agenda was reviewed by Van.

A motion by Van Bitner, second by Barb Klinger to allow Kelly to pursue different venues. MCVV. A motion to enter a float in the 2016 State Fair Parade was made by Van Bitner, second by Van Bitner, second by Terry Davis. MCVV. Motion by Terry Davis, second by Dale Shumaker to approve the report. MCVV.

Legislative - Tom Beyers gave the report. Tom reported Mike Hoffman was in attendance at the Legislative Committee meeting. Tom went thru the resolutions that were passed at the last Summer Conference, and the status of those resolutions. The Legislative Newsletter was discussed. AISWCD will publish this quarterly. **Tom proposed**

SWCD Insurance – Melissa Cauble, Insurance Administrator, gave the insurance report for February, which was provided in the handouts (attached to minutes). Melissa has registered for the HPR seminar, which is put on by Central Management Services which is on April 23, at the Northfield Inn in Springfield. Open enrollment begins May 1 – June 15, 2013. Annual Payroll audit will be conducted at the end of the fiscal year.

Board of Directors: March 2015 Quarterly Board Minutes (Continued)

Committee Reports (Continued)

Financial – Kenny Vosholler gave the report. The budget was reviewed in the new format. **Finances were approved with a motion by Kenny Vosholler, second by Glen Bowers. MCVV.** The Financial Committee recommends an informative letter be sent to all districts electronically, with a hard copy also being sent to the districts who have not paid dues, and all of their five directors, containing the benefits of dues, including the insurance benefits. **Motion made by Kenny Vosholler to send out the letter, seconded by Barb Klinger. MCVV.**

Urban Community & Conservations - Matt Hanauer gave the report. There were no action items.

Area VP Reports

Area 1 – No Report

Area 2 – No Report

Area 3 – No Report

Area 4 – Glen Bowers reported he and Steve Fulling had signed a letter urging the districts in their area who had not paid their dues, to pay them.

Tom Beyers showed the board a short power point presentation on jimson.

A motion was made by Barb Klinger, seconded by Don Beisiegel to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 5:25 pm.

Minutes taken and transcribed by: Cindy Moon

**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.

Board of Directors: June 2015 Quarterly Board Minutes (Continued)

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.

Board of Directors: June 2015 Quarterly Board Minutes (Continued)

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 web-site, 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.

Board of Directors: June 2015 Quarterly Board Minutes (Continued)

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

AISWCD 33rd Annual Foundation Meeting

July 29, 2014

Northfield Inn—Springfield, IL

Quorum Present

The meeting was called to order by AISWCD President, Lonnie Wilson at 12:21 pm. Roll call was taken by AISWCD Secretary, Van Bitner.

Approval of 2013 33rd Annual Foundation Minutes:

First: Crawford County Second: Effingham County Carried: All

Approval of 2013-2014 Foundation Meeting Minutes:

First: Stephenson County Second: Clark County Carried: All

Old Business—No old business was brought in front of the delegates.

New Business

A motion was made to have the same directors voted in from the annual meeting as the foundation.

First: Macoupin County Second: Henderson County Carried: All

It was announced that if anyone would like information on how to sign up for the Affiliate Membership, they were to see Gina Bean.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:22 pm

First: Henderson County Second: Henry County

**AISWCD Foundation Meeting Minutes
AISWCD Quarterly Board
Northfield Inn, Springfield, IL
December 9, 2014**

Present:

Myron Kirby, President
Tom Beyers, V. President
Van Bitner, Secretary
Kenny Vosholler, Treasurer
Jerry Snodgrass, Area 1 VP
David McCormick, Area 2 VP
Steve Stierwalt, Area 3 VP
Lee Bunting, LUC 3
Terry Davis, LUC 4
Dan Duval, LUC 5
Randy Molitoris, LUC 6
Joe Rothermel, LUC 7
Jason Anderson, LUC 9
Daniel Doedtman, LUC 10
Steve Fulling, LUC 11
Don Beisiegel, LUC 12
Dale Shumaker, LUC 15
Gerard Fabrizio, LUC 16
Marie Bunting, AISWCD Auxiliary
Sondra Baker, ISWCDEA Co-Chair
Keith Livesay, ISWCDEA for Kara Downin
Kelly Thompson, AISWCD
Gina Bean, AISWCD
Matt Hanauer, AISWCD

Absent:

Lonnie Wilson, Past President, LUC 2
Glen Bowers, Area 4 VP
Barb Klinger, LUC 1
Darrell Roegge, LUC 8
Roger Johnson, LUC 13
Tom Anderson, LUC 14
Kara Downin, ISWCDEA Co-Chair

Chairman Myron Kirby called the meeting to order at 8:20 A.M. Van Bitner did the Roll Call.

Approve the Agenda-A motion was made by Terry Davis and seconded by Dan Doedtman to approve the Agenda as presented, motion carried.

Approve June 2014 Quarterly Board Meeting Minutes-The Agenda listed the July 2014 Dot Point Highlights but that was incorrect, Tom Beyers stated it was the June 2014 Quarterly Board Foundation Minutes that needed approved. Sue Davis provided a copy of those minutes and they were read by Chairman Myron Kirby. A motion was made by Don Beisiegel and seconded by Tom Beyers for the June 2014 Quarterly Board Foundation Meeting Minutes to be approved, motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Affiliate Membership-Gina Bean gave an update on the Affiliate Memberships, Christian County Soil and Water joined and Warren County SWCD did not rejoin after their first year had finished.

NEW BUSINESS

Questions on Financial Report (Handout)-The current balance of the Foundation is \$37,205.74. It was stated that a line item needs to be added to show the exact amount for the McKibben Scholarship each year. And it was suggested to change Line 1020 to Restricted and Non-Restricted.

A motion was made by Tom Beyers and seconded by Dan Doedtman to adjourn, motion carried.

Minutes By: Sue Davis, Christian County SWCD

AISWCD Foundation Meeting Minutes
AISWCD Quarterly Board
Northfield Inn, Springfield, IL
March 9, 2015

Present

Myron Kirby, President
Tom Beyers, Vice President
Van Bitner, Secretary
Kenny Vosholler, Treasurer
Lonnie Wilson, Past President
Steve Stierwalt, Area III VP
Glen Bowers, Area IV VP
Carlyn Light, Area IV AP
Barb Klinger, Council 1
Terry Bogner, Council 2
Lee Bunting, Council 3
Terry Davis, Council 4
Dan Duval, Council 5
Randy Molitoris, Council 6
Joe Rothermel, Council 7
Darrell Roegge, Council 8 (Left Early)
Jason Anderson, Council 9
Steve Fulling, Council 11
Don Beisiegel, Council 12
Dale Shumaker, Council 15
Marie Bunting, Auxiliary President (Arrived Late)
Sondra Baker, ISWCDEA AC Co-Chair
Kara Downin, ISWCDEA RC Co-Chair (Left Early)
Kelly Thompson, AISWCD
Gina Bean, AISWCD
Matt Hanauer, AISWCD

Absent

Jerry Snodgrass, Area 1 VP
David McCormick, Area II VP
Daniel Doedtman, Council 10
Roger Johnson, Council 13
Tom Anderson, Council 14
Gerald Fabrizius, Council 16
Mike Hoffman, Lobbyist

Chairman Myron Kirby called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m. Van Bitner did the Roll Call.

Approve Agenda-A motion was made by Don Beisiegel and seconded by Darrell Roegge to approve the Agenda as presented. Motion carried.

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

OLD BUSINESS

Affiliate Membership Update- Gina updated the Board on the current and new Affiliate Members. She also discussed the discounts the members receive that have Affiliate Memberships.

NEW BUSINESS

Questions on Financial Reports- There was a question about the amount available for the McKibben Scholarship. It was stated this was discussed in the Financial Committee today and that there is enough for the \$500 Scholarship. It was stated there was \$30,158.52 in the Foundation Account and that \$25,000 of that is Restricted. A motion was made by Kenny Vosholler and seconded by Lee Bunting to pay the \$500 for the McKibben Scholarship out of the unrestricted balance of \$5,158.52, motion carried.

Affiliate Membership Sign-up- They were asking suggestions on how to get more people to sign-up for Affiliate Memberships, call the AISWCD office with any ideas or suggestions anyone might have to do this.

A motion was made by Darrell Roegge and seconded by Don Beisiegel to adjourn, motion carried.

Minutes Taken By: Sue Davis, Christian County SWCD

AISWCD Foundation Meeting Minutes
Quarterly Board
Northfield Inn—Springfield, IL
June 9, 2015

Present:

Myron Kirby, President
Tom Beyers, Vice-President
Van Bitner, Secretary
Kenny Vosholler, Treasurer
Lonnie Wilson, Past President
Jerry Snodgrass, Area 1 VP
David 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
Darrell Roegge, LUC 8
Jason Anderson, LUC 9
Steve Fulling, LUC 11
Don Beisiegel, LUC 12
Roger Johnson, LUC 13
Dale Shumaker, LUC 15
Marie Bunting, Auxiliary President
Sondra Baker, ISWCDEA Co-Chair
Keith Livesay, ISWCDEA Co-Chair
Kelly Thompson, AISWCD
Gina Bean, AISWCD
Matt Hanauer, AISWCD
Bob Swearingen

Absent:

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

Chairman Myron Kirby called the meeting to order at 8:15 a.m. Van Bitner did the Roll Call.

Approve Agenda-A motion was made by Tom Beyers and seconded by Don Beisiegel to approve the Agenda as presented, motion carried.

Approve March 2015 Minutes-A motion was made by Tom Beyers and seconded by Barb Klinger to approve the March 9, 2015 Meeting Minutes as presented, motion carried.

Old Business

McKibben Scholarship Review Committee Report-Jerry Snodgrass stated there was one Scholarship application this year and it was a very deserving applicant and they will be awarded the McKibben Scholarship. And Jerry stated that they did make sure there was enough money in the account to pay the Scholarship this year.

NEW BUSINESS

Financial Report-The Financial Report was on page 53 in the packet. There was discussion of a negative balance that was on the report and this is to be discussed with the Auditor.

Approve Foundation Financial Audit Summary-This could not be done as the Auditor was not in attendance at this time at the meeting.

Approve Foundation Financials-A motion was made by Lee Bunting and seconded by Barb Klinger to approve the Financials as presented, motion carried.

Mini Grants/Scholarship to SWCD's (Contribution Requirements)- Kelly Thompson wondered if the Foundation is giving enough back, she wondered if it should be 5% of the net income per year. It was decided that we should be good because we have been exceeding that per Lonnie Wilson.

A motion was made by Lee Bunting and seconded by Barb Klinger to adjourn, motion carried.

Minutes taken by: Sue M. Davis

Pehlman & Dold, P.C.

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

J. Timothy Cravens, C.P.A.
Todd J. Anderson, C.P.A.
Dorinda L. Fitzgerald, C.P.A.

Joseph E. Pehlman, C.P.A. (1941 - 1984)
Joseph B. Dold, C.P.A., Retired
Robert E. Ritter, C.P.A., Retired

100 North Amos Avenue
Springfield, IL 62702
217-787-0563
FAX 217-787-9266

May 12, 2015

To the Board of Directors
Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts and Related Entity
Springfield, Illinois

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

We have audited the accompanying consolidated financial statements of Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts and Related Entity (a nonprofit organization), which comprise the consolidated statements of assets, liabilities, and net assets – modified cash basis as of December 31, 2014 and 2013, and the related consolidated statements of support, revenue, and expenses – modified cash basis for the years then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with modified cash basis of accounting as described in Note 1; this includes determining that the modified cash basis of accounting is an acceptable basis for the preparation of the financial statements in the circumstances. Management is also responsible for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the assets, liabilities, and net assets of Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts and Related Entity as of December 31, 2014 and 2013, and their support, revenue, and expenses for the years then ended in accordance with the modified cash basis of accounting as described in Note 1.

Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to Note 1 of the financial statements, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial statements are prepared on the modified cash basis of accounting, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our opinion is not modified with respect to that matter.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peelman & Dold", is written over the printed name of the firm.

PEELMAN & DOLD, P.C.
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS
AND RELATED ENTITY
Springfield, Illinois

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF ASSETS, LIABILITIES, AND NET ASSETS
MODIFIED CASH BASIS
December 31, 2014 and 2013

ASSETS

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
Current Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$221,712	\$203,427
Total current assets	<u>221,712</u>	<u>203,427</u>
Fixed Assets		
Furniture, fixtures & equipment	41,114	32,639
Land and building	273,416	273,416
Vehicles	19,372	11,275
Accumulated depreciation	(106,772)	(97,963)
Total fixed assets	<u>227,130</u>	<u>219,367</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$448,842</u>	<u>\$422,794</u>

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Current Liabilities		
Payroll taxes payable	\$ 23,692	\$ 6,518
Current maturities of long-term-debt	3,909	
Current maturities of capital lease obligation	1,140	
Total current liabilities	<u>28,741</u>	<u>6,518</u>
Long term debt – net of current maturities	12,263	
Capital lease obligation – net of current maturities	4,465	
Total long-term liabilities	<u>16,728</u>	
Total liabilities	<u>45,469</u>	<u>6,518</u>
Net Assets		
Unrestricted	349,767	331,098
Temporarily restricted	33,606	65,178
Permanently restricted	20,000	20,000
Total net assets	<u>403,373</u>	<u>416,276</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	<u>\$448,842</u>	<u>\$422,794</u>

ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS
AND RELATED ENTITY
Springfield, Illinois

CONSOLIDATING STATEMENTS OF ASSETS, LIABILITIES, AND NET ASSETS
MODIFIED CASH BASIS

For the Years Ended December 31, 2014 and 2013

ASSETS

	Association	Foundation	2014	2013
Current Assets				
Cash and cash equivalents	\$184,563	\$ 37,149	\$221,712	\$203,427
Total current assets	<u>184,563</u>	<u>37,149</u>	<u>221,712</u>	<u>203,427</u>
Fixed Assets				
Furniture, fixtures & equipment	41,114		41,114	32,639
Land and building	273,416		273,416	273,416
Vehicles	19,372		19,372	11,275
Accumulated depreciation	(106,772)		(106,772)	(97,963)
Total fixed assets	<u>227,130</u>	<u> </u>	<u>227,130</u>	<u>219,367</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$411,693</u>	<u>\$ 37,149</u>	<u>\$448,842</u>	<u>\$422,794</u>

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Current Liabilities				
Payroll taxes payable	\$ 23,692	\$	\$ 23,692	\$ 6,518
Current portion – long-term debt	3,909		3,909	
Current maturities – capital lease obligation	1,140		1,140	
Total current liabilities	<u>28,741</u>	<u> </u>	<u>28,741</u>	<u>6,518</u>
Long-term debt	12,263		12,263	
Capital lease obligation	4,465		4,465	
Total long-term liabilities	<u>16,728</u>	<u> </u>	<u>16,728</u>	<u> </u>
Total liabilities	<u>45,469</u>	<u> </u>	<u>45,469</u>	<u>6,518</u>
Net Assets				
Unrestricted	336,864	12,903	349,767	331,098
Temporarily restricted	29,360	4,246	33,606	65,178
Permanently restricted	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
Total net assets	<u>366,224</u>	<u>37,149</u>	<u>403,373</u>	<u>416,276</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	<u>\$411,693</u>	<u>\$ 37,149</u>	<u>\$448,842</u>	<u>\$422,794</u>

2016 General Fund Income

ITEM	2016 BUDGET
Membership Dues	\$ 130,000.00
CREP Administration	\$ 26,000.00
604B Administration	\$ 10,000.00
NRCS Agreement Administration	\$ 100,000.00
Annual Meeting	\$ 19,950.00
Registrations	\$ 6,000.00
Meals	\$ 6,000.00
Sponsorships/Exhibit	\$ 1,750.00
Auction	\$ 6,200.00
Pass Through Funds	\$ 48,707.00
Earth Stewardship Day	\$ 3,200.00
Insurance	\$ 42,504.00
Legislative Day Lunch Payments	\$ 903.00
SWCD Invoices (Conference)	\$ 100.00
SWCD Equipment Update	\$2,000.00
Interest	\$ 250.00
TOTALS	\$ 334,907.00

2016 General Fund Expenses

ITEM	2016 BUDGET
Payroll/Taxes	\$ 110,000.00
Employee Insurance	\$ 12,900.00
Vehicle	\$ 5,675.64
<i>Loan</i>	\$ 4,232.64
<i>Ins</i>	\$ 1,092.00
<i>Maintenance</i>	\$ 250.00
License Plate Registration	\$ 101.00
Professional Services	\$ 30,600.00
<i>Lobbyist</i>	\$ 24,000.00
<i>Payroll</i>	\$ 1,800.00
<i>Audit</i>	\$ 4,800.00
Travel (Fuel/Mileage/Meals)	\$ 5,000.00
<i>Fuel</i>	\$2,000.00
<i>Expenses (Meals/Lodging/Etc)</i>	\$3,000.00
Annual Meeting	\$ 11,000.00
Quarterly Board Meetings/Conference Calls	\$ 6,000.00
<i>Meals</i>	\$ 5,000.00
<i>Conference Calls</i>	\$ 250.00
<i>Supplies</i>	\$ 150.00
<i>Rooms/Mileage (Minute Takers)</i>	\$ 600.00
Legislative	\$ 3,401.00
<i>Directories</i>	\$ 340.00
<i>Legislative Day</i>	\$ 2500.00
<i>IL Agriculture Legislative Day</i>	\$ 150.00
<i>Lobbyist Registration (Exec Dir)</i>	\$ 311.00
<i>Legislative Meetings (SWCDs)</i>	\$ 100.00
Officer Expenses	\$ 12,400.00
<i>Travel/Misc.</i>	\$ 1,500.00
<i>President</i>	\$ 2,500.00
<i>Vice President</i>	\$ 1,500.00
<i>AIWCD Board Members</i>	\$ 6,900.00
Building Expenses	\$ 6,000.00
<i>Building Fund Transfer</i>	\$ 6,000.00
Memberships	\$ 1,335.00
<i>ISWCDEA</i>	\$ 20.00
<i>Sam's Club</i>	\$ 45.00
<i>ISAE</i>	\$ 195.00
<i>NACD North Central Region</i>	\$ 300.00
<i>NACD</i>	\$ 775.00
Workshops/Training/Conference	\$ 5,790.00
<i>Winter Training Registration</i>	\$ 40.00
<i>Professional Development</i>	\$ 500.00
<i>SWCD Professional Development</i>	\$ 250.00
<i>Envirothon Team (Nationals)</i>	\$ 5,000.00

2016 General Fund Expenses (Continued)

ITEM	2016 BUDGET
Office Expenses <i>Phone/Internet</i> <i>Security</i> <i>Garbage</i> <i>Copier Lease</i> <i>Gas/Electric</i> <i>Supplies/Paper/Ink</i> <i>Equipment</i> <i>Postage</i> <i>Conference Calls</i>	\$ 12,917.00 <i>\$ 3,252.00</i> <i>\$ 520.00</i> <i>\$ 219.00</i> <i>\$ 1,322.00</i> <i>\$ 3,564.00</i> <i>\$ 2,000.00</i> <i>\$ 900.00</i> <i>\$ 900.00</i> <i>\$ 240.00</i>
NACD <i>NACD North Central Region Meeting</i> <i>NACD Annual Meeting (February)</i> <i>NACD Legislative Meeting (Summer)</i> <i>Auction Item</i>	\$ 16,650.00 <i>\$ 1,200.00</i> <i>\$ 7,500.00</i> <i>\$ 7,500.00</i> <i>\$ 450.00</i>
Other <i>Gifts</i> <i>Annual Report Filing Fee</i> <i>Certificate of Good Standing</i> <i>Checking Account Service Fees</i> <i>Ag Day at the Fair</i>	\$ 1,905.00 <i>\$ 500.00</i> <i>\$ 500.00</i> <i>\$ 10.00</i> <i>\$ 720.00</i> <i>\$ 175.00</i>
Pass Through Expenses <i>Earth Stewardship Day</i> <i>Insurance</i> <i>Legislative Day Lunches</i> <i>SWCD Invoices (Conference Line)</i> <i>SWCD Equipment Update</i>	\$ 48,907.00 <i>\$ 3,400.00</i> <i>\$ 42,504.00</i> <i>\$ 903.00</i> <i>\$ 100.00</i> <i>\$ 2,000.00</i>
TOTALS	\$ 290,480.64

Education Committee Report

We spent most of the year promoting the McKibben Scholarship and the Teacher of the Year award. We had pretty good response to the teacher of the year and a scholarship applicant. We also heard updates from the Envirothon Committee and gave them some input from our committee members. We were able to continue our work with the Audubon Society for their sponsorship of the teacher of the year award. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources has been a valuable partner again this year promoting educational experiences with tours for school children and other activities that both the IDNR and AISWCD can benefit from. Thank you to all of the Representatives of our Partners for the quarterly updates and participation in our meetings. Thank you to all the committee members for their time and input to the committee.

Jerry Snodgrass

Education Committee Chairman

Community and Urban Committee Report

The committee received great support from Matt Hanauer, Watershed Coordinator/Specialist, on updates to the Urban Manual and grant applications for AISWCD. He is also our AISWCD staff person to our committee. Thank you to all Partner Representatives to bring us up to date on their organizations activities. Thank you to the committee members for your interest in this committee and the input you all provided.

Jerry Snodgrass, Gerard Fabrizius

Committee Co-Chairs

Financial Committee Report

As of June 26, 2015:

Five Districts have not paid the 2014 second installment dues payment. Four Districts have not paid the 2015 first installment dues payment and one District has only made a partial payment. Ten Districts have not paid the 2015 second installment dues payment.

2015 FARM SERVICE AGENCY CRP REPORT

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) in Illinois

Recently the Secretary of Agriculture announced a general signup will be held December 1, 2015 through February 26, 2016.

As of April 1, 2015, Illinois had 77,394 CRP contracts totaling 892,080 acres.

FSA issued approximately \$1,613,000,000 in annual CRP payments shortly after October 1, 2014.

Of those CRP contracts and acreages, there are four special projects with acreages set aside specifically for them in Illinois:

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

There is a 232,000 acre allocation for CREP. It is currently limited to the Illinois River and the Kaskaskia River watersheds and 169,673 acres have been enrolled leaving 62,327 acres available. This is a special project conducted with the State of Illinois who provides additional incentives to participants.

The goal is to reduce silt, sedimentation, phosphorus, and nitrogen from entering the Illinois and Kaskaskia River and also increase populations of waterfowl, shorebirds, grassland birds, and others in the watershed.

The original Illinois CREP started in 1998 and targeted the Illinois River Watershed. In December of 2010 the CREP area was expanded to include the Kaskaskia River Watershed. Illinois CREP now includes all or portions of 68 counties within these two watersheds.

Habitat Buffers for Upland Birds (CP33)

The purpose of this practice is to provide food and cover for quail and upland birds in cropland areas by applying this practice around the edge of eligible cropland fields.

There is a 73,200 acre allocation for CP33 practices and is available state-wide. Approximately 72,234 acres have been allocated leaving 966 acres available on a 'first come' basis.

Highly Erodible Land Initiative (HELI)

A new initiative that started recently was set out to protect some of the nation's most highly erodible croplands by enabling producers to plant wildlife-friendly, long-term cover through the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).

To be eligible this land must have an Erodibility Index of 20 or greater.

This initiative allows producers to plant wildlife friendly, long term cover. There is a 50,000 acre allocation for HELI and it is available state-wide. Approximately 21,668 have been enrolled in this practice.

(FSA REPORT CONTINUED)

State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE)

There is a 23,000 acreage allocation for site specific projects to address high priority wildlife needs through habitat restoration. The approved project locations are:

Mercer County Upland Habitat Restoration Project with an 1800 acre allocation. The goal of this project is to establish and properly manage plantings of native grasses and forbs to increase the pheasant population in Mercer County. All of the 1800 have been enrolled.

Illinois Grassland/Wetland Habitat Restoration in Prairie Landscapes with a 15,600 acre allocation. All 15,600 acres have been enrolled.

The goal of this project is to restore grassland and wetland habitats in two natural divisions of Illinois. The Grand Prairie area is in central and north-central Illinois and the focus areas are in parts of Bureau, Carroll, Champaign, DeKalb, DeWitt, Ford, Henry, Iroquois, Knox, LaSalle, Lee, Livingston, Logan, Marshall, Mason, McLean, Montgomery, Ogle, Sangamon, Stephenson, Tazewell, Vermilion, Whiteside, Winnebago and Woodford counties. The goal here is to increase the habitat for pheasants and other grassland wildlife. The other area is the Southern Till Plain and the focus areas are Clay, Clinton, Effingham, Fayette, Jasper, Marion, Richland, and Washington counties. The goal here is to increase the habitat for greater prairie chickens and associated grassland wildlife. In this project, there will be defined approval areas within each county; i.e. only parts of each county meet the criteria.

Western Illinois Pheasant Habitat Restoration Project with a 3,600 acre allocation. The goal is to provide additional pheasant habitat and includes parts of Fulton, Henderson, Henry, Knox, Mercer, Peoria, Stark, and Warren counties. All 3,600 acres have been enrolled.

Sangamon County Northern Bobwhite Quail Conservation Initiative with a 2,000 acre allocation. The goal is to provide increased quail habitat in Sangamon County. 1,713 acres of the 2,000 allocated have been enrolled.

Many of our acre allocated practices are low or completely out of acres. An additional 800,000 acres have been dedicated to CRP for wildlife habitat and wetlands nationwide and Illinois has requested additional acres in these areas.

Tree Assistance Program – TAP

TAP was authorized by the Agricultural Act of 2014 as a permanent disaster program.

TAP provides financial assistance to qualifying orchardists and nursery tree growers to replant or rehabilitate eligible trees, bushes and vines damaged by natural disasters. Eligible tree types include trees, bushes or vines that produce an annual crop for commercial purposes. Nursery trees include ornamental, fruit, nut and Christmas trees that are produced for commercial sale. Trees used for pulp or timber are ineligible.

To qualify for TAP, orchardists must suffer a qualifying tree, bush or vine loss in excess of 15 percent mortality (adjusted for normal mortality) from an eligible natural disaster. The eligible trees, bushes or vines must have been owned when the natural disaster occurred; however, eligible growers are not required to own the land on which the eligible trees, bushes and vines were planted.

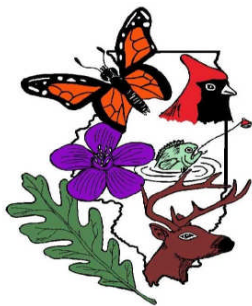
Applicants who suffered eligible tree, bush and vine losses must provide an application and supporting documentation to FSA within 90 calendar days of each disaster event or date when the loss of tree, bushes, or vine is apparent to the producer. If the TAP application is approved, the eligible trees, bushes and vines must be replaced within 12 months from the date the application is approved.

The cumulative total quantity of acres planted to trees, bushes or vines for which a producer can receive TAP payments, cannot exceed 500 acres annually.

(FSA REPORT CONTINUED)

Transition Incentives Program - TIP

The Transition Incentives Program (TIP) has also restarted with the 2014 Farm Bill. This is a transition of land enrolled under an expiring CRP contract from a retired or retiring owner or operator to a veteran or beginning farmer to return the land to production. In return for this the retiring owner or operator may receive up to two additional annual rental payments after the CRP contract expires. Illinois has been allocated \$685,000 to use and this was based on the number of expiring CRP contracts in Illinois.



2015 Illinois Envirothon

Winner Results

1st Place: *East Richland HS*

Richland County LUC 11

2nd Place: *Midland HS*

Marshall/Putnam County LUC 2

3rd Place: *Sandoval High School*

Marion County LUC 13



Category Winners: **Aquatics:** *Midland HS*

Forestry: *Midland HS*

Soils: *East Richland HS*

Wildlife: *Neoga HS*

5th Cat.: *East Richland HS*

Best T-Shirt award: *LUC 8 Virginia HS*

Spirit Award: *LUC 15 Murphysboro HS*



Preliminary Rules Governing 2015 AISWCD Annual Business Meeting

Tuesday, July 28, 2015

1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Northfield Inn, Springfield, Illinois

Crystal/Diamond/Emerald Rooms

1. SWCD Voting Delegates and Alternates will be seated at the front of the room by Councils and Areas. Each Member District will have two seats available in the delegate section, one for a delegate and one for an alternate delegate.
2. Any Delegate wishing to be recognized must present their District's sign and state their name.
3. Each District that has paid their 2014 dues based on 3% of funds received prior to July 28, 2014 is entitled to one vote on each item of business to come before the meeting.
4. Voting Delegates must be a District Director appointed by their district governing body.
5. Motions and Seconds will be accepted from only the voting delegates who are seated in the delegate section.
6. Votes will be counted from the delegates seating area only one for each district.
7. Any Delegate holding the floor may yield the floor to any person for technical information pertaining to the issue before the House.
8. Discussion on any issue will be accepted from the floor microphones only, with a maximum time allotment of two minutes.
9. Resolutions, which were submitted to the resolution Chairperson prior to the June Board Meeting and approved by their Council, will be brought before the Annual Meeting. Resolutions not submitted by the June Board Meeting may be brought before the voting delegates and must receive a 75% favorable response of voting delegates present in order to bring the resolution on the floor for discussion.
10. A time limit of five minutes (per speaker) will be imposed on any one resolution.

CONSTITUTION AND POLICIES OF THE ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

CONSTITUTION:

Section #1. Name. This Association shall be known as the Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts. The official abbreviation of its name shall be A.I.S.W.C.D.

Section #2. Purposes. To Advance the conservation and orderly development, management, improvement, and multiple use of natural resources of the State of Illinois through serving Soil and Water Conservation Districts as the state Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts by:

Working toward achieving the maximum administrative and technical efficiency in the operating of Soil and Water Conservation Districts in the State, through facilitating an interchange of advice and experience among them, and through keeping the directors of all districts informed of the activities and experiences of other Districts.

Creating a Statewide awareness of the urgency of meeting the demands of a changing economy and population.

Convincing all who use or manage renewable natural resources that Illinois's future well-being depends on using each acre within its capabilities and treating each acre according to its needs.

Working impartially with private and public organizations and groups of all political affiliations, to prevent the conservation of natural resources from becoming a partisan political issue. To this end, the Association will function as an independent, non-profit, non-partisan organization.

Assisting Soil and Water Conservation Districts in the State in securing technical, financial, educational and scientific service from both public and private sources, that are required to enable Districts to achieve universal adoption of conservation methods on both private and public lands.

Encouraging and facilitating close and effective cooperation between the Soil and Water Conservation Districts of the state and all Federal, State and Local Public agencies, both rural and urban, and all private organizations, who are concerned in any manner in carrying out the national policy for the conservation and development of soil, water, and other renewable natural resources.

Seeking to gain full public understanding and support of the essential role of soil and water conservation in the protection and development of underground water, water quality and quantity in the State of Illinois.

Encouraging SWCD Directors to be advocates of the retention of prime farmland from unnecessary conversion to other uses.

Encouraging SWCD Directors to become involved in efforts to bring about effective reclamation of abandoned mined land and newly mined land.

Encourage SWCD Directors from adjoining Districts to work together in multi-county efforts, such as Resource, Conservation and Development, to help bring about economic development and social well being of Illinois citizens through the conservation and development of natural resources.

Section #3. Incorporation. This Association was incorporated as a non-profit corporation under the laws of Illinois on the 9th of December, 1948, under the name of the Association of Illinois Soil Conservation Districts. Its corporate name was changed to the Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts on the 1st of February, 1962.

POLICIES:

The basic policies of the Association are:

1. To insure the officers and directors of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Councils of the Districts, and State Association Officers to the full acceptance of their responsibilities for leadership.
2. To strengthen the basic American principle that the function of government is to serve and not to dominate or control.
3. To seek public assistance for the application of proper land use and resource conservation measures which are in the public interest.
4. To provide Soil and Water Conservation Districts with facilities and suggestions for making their objectives and democratic methods known.
5. To seek effective support for Soil and Water Conservation Districts wherever it may be found, in government, industry, labor, commerce; in farm, civic, conservation and other organizations; among educators, the media, the clergy; and in all other segments of American society.
6. To supply reliable information concerning the purposes and activities of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Councils, and the state Association to the press, radio, and television; to national and state legislators, local bodies, farm organizations, agricultural leaders, and all other responsible organizations and leaders concerned with these purposes and activities.
7. To assist all public agencies concerned with the conservation, development, improvement, management and multiple use of renewable natural resources, to render more effective service to the people of this state.
8. To encourage and assist Districts to assume and carry out appropriate local responsibilities under all existing federal and state authorities.

9. To expressively reject any and all partisan political affiliations, to intervene in any political campaigns on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for elections to public office, National, State or Local.
10. To assist Districts to analyze and gain full public understanding of conservation needs; evaluate current programs and their effectiveness; and develop needed new programs.
11. To encourage districts to establish priorities for the use of technical and financial assistance priority areas.
12. To contribute in the event of the death of a Past President, current Executive Committee Member or current member of the Board of Directors, a Memorial gift of \$25.00 (twenty-five dollars) to the IFSWCD Endowment Fund.
13. To encourage each Council to be responsible for paying contest judging expenses according to their own policy of reimbursement.
14. To consider, as a common practice, asking the immediate past President to continue for one year as Councilman to NACD.
15. To cooperate with agencies and organizations that work with people on an equal basis without regards for race, religion, sex, or national origin. The Association encourages minorities and female participation on county SWCD Boards and committees.

Revised and Approved July 28, 1986

Revised January 13, 1989

By-Laws of the Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts

ARTICLE #1

Authority - Purpose - Power - Place of Business - Membership - Dues

Section #1: Authority. The final authority in the direction and control of the affairs of this Association shall rest in the membership. All Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts are eligible to be members of this organization.

Section #2: Purposes. The purposes of the Association are stated in the constitution and policies of the Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts, including to advance the conservation and orderly development, management, improvement, and multiple use of natural resources of the State of Illinois through serving Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

In accordance with Internal Revenue Code (hereinafter I.R.C.) 501(c) (4), the Association is not organized for profit, but operated exclusively for the promotion of social welfare and the net earnings of which are devoted exclusively to charitable, educational or recreational purposes.

No part of the net earnings of the Association shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, directors, officers, employees, or other private persons, except that the Association shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth herein.

Income for each taxable year will be distributed at such time and in such manner as not to subject the Association to tax under I.R.C. 4942, and the Association shall not engage in any act of self-dealing as defined in I.R.C. 4941 (d), or retain any excess business holdings as defined in I.R.C. 4943 (c), or make any investments in such manner as to subject the Association to tax under I.R.C. 4944 and make any taxable expenditures defined in I.R.C. 4945 (d).

Upon dissolution and in accordance with Article 6, Section 2 below, any assets remaining after all expenses and obligations are fully satisfied, shall be distributed evenly to the eligible member Soil and Water Conservation Districts formed under 70 ILCS 405/1 in good standing at time of dissolution.

Section #3: Power. The State Association shall have power to employ such personnel and to acquire and own such equipment as may be necessary for carrying out the objectives of the Association. The Association shall represent the Soil and Water Conservation Districts in the State of Illinois. The Association Board shall elect a board member and alternate to the National Association of Conservation Districts. The NACD Board member and Alternate shall be an elected director from a District in good standing. The Association shall have the power to enter into agreement with interested groups and agencies as may be necessary to carry out the purpose and objectives of the organization.

Section #4: Offices. The Association shall have and continuously maintain in this State a registered office and a registered agent whose office is identical with such registered office, and shall have other offices within or without the State of Illinois as the Board of Directors may from time to time determine.

Section #5: Membership. The membership of the Association shall consist of two (2) classifications.

A. Active Voting Members: Shall be the Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Illinois, whose dues have been paid in full by January 1 of each year (subject to Article 1 Section 6, B) which qualifies them to be a district in good standing. Each shall be represented by one delegate and one alternate current director appointed by the District governing body. Each District shall have one vote. A district in good standing shall have privileges of being represented by the Association and directors able to hold office, vote in Association matters, and participate in Association programs.

B. Affiliate Members: Affiliate Members of the Association shall consist of any individual, company, corporation or agency interested in supporting, financially or through active participation, the conservation, improvement, management, and multiple use of the natural resources of the State of Illinois.

Section #6: Dues. The dues of the Association shall be paid in full annually by January 1.

A. Active Voting Member: The yearly dues of the Active Voting Member shall be as recommended by the Board of Directors and approved by the Active voting delegates at each Annual Meeting of the Association.

B. Dues Deadline Variance: The dues payment deadline may be extended by the President with concurrence of the Executive Committee for a named, definite period of time due to extenuating circumstances.

ARTICLE #2

Delegate Meetings - Voting Privileges - Qualifications - Quorum

Section #1: Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting of the members of the Association shall be held at such time and place as may be designated by the Board of Directors of the Association. The Secretary shall send or have sent written notice to all members at least 30 days prior to the date set. Notice shall state time and place and shall include notice of special business that is to be presented over and above the ordinary or regular business.

Section #2: Special Meetings. Special meetings may be called at any time by the President or a majority of the Board of Directors or upon written request of one-third of the active voting members of this Association. Notice of special meetings and shall be given to all board members and shall provide sufficient time to allow for any necessary preparation and travel to attend the meeting. No business may be transacted at a special meeting other than that stated in the call. Such special meetings may take place in person or, at the discretion of the president or of the majority of the board, by conference call.

Section #3: Voting Privileges. Voting privileges of this Association shall be vested in delegates qualifying under the classification of Active Voting Members as outlined in Article #1, Section 5, A.

Section #4: Qualifications. The qualification for voting delegates shall be that they must be District Directors appointed by a District Governing Body.

Section #5: Quorum. A majority of the Active Voting Delegates shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any regular or special meeting of the members. In the absence of a legal quorum, those present may conduct the business of the Association, with all actions so taken being subject to approval by the delegate body at a time when a quorum is declared.

Section #6: Resolutions. Resolutions to be brought before the Annual Meeting must be sent to the Resolutions Chairperson (see Article 5, Section 2 c), before the June Board Meeting prior to the Annual Meeting. Resolutions brought to the Resolution Chairperson before the June Board Meeting must receive a simple majority for passage. Resolutions not submitted to the Resolution Chairperson before the June Board Meeting must be brought before the voting delegates and receive a seventy-five percent (75%) favorable response of voting delegates present in order to bring the resolution to the floor for discussion. Following discussion these Resolutions must receive a simple majority for passage. Resolutions can be initiated by any District in good standing, Association committees, Association Board of Directors, and Councils in good standing. Councils with a majority of their Districts as active voting members shall be considered as in good standing.

Resolutions passed by the voting delegates at the annual meeting will be added to the AISWCD Resolution Book for use by the AISWCD Employees, Officers and members to further the efforts of Conservation by the AISWCD.

Section #7: Amendments of By-Laws. By-laws may be amended, repealed or altered at the Association Annual Meeting by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the eligible districts present. At least thirty (30) days prior to the Annual Meeting, notice of the proposed amendment(s) shall be given to the membership. Amendments become effective immediately upon passage. Resolutions that deal with by-law changes shall include the Article and Section amended, repealed or altered by the resolution.

ARTICLE #3

Board of Directors - Officers - Executive Committee Organization Units - Personnel

Section # 1: Board of Directors. The business, property and affairs of this Association shall be controlled by a Board of Directors composed of a Director or Alternate Director from each Council hereinafter known as Association Director or Alternate Association Director and the Executive Committee. The Association Directors or Alternate Association Directors, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Area Vice Presidents shall have voting rights, with the President only voting to break a tie. The immediate past president of the AISWCD if currently serving as a duly elected member of a governing body of an Illinois Soil and Water Conservation District in good standing, NACD Board member and Alternate, NACD Officer and President of the Auxiliary and Co-Chairs of the Illinois Soil and Water Conservation District Employees Association

elected by their body serve with voice participation but without voting rights on both the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee (Article 3, Section 1, C).

A. Qualification for Board of Directors: They must be duly elected and currently serving as members of a governing body of an Illinois Soil and Water Conservation District in good standing. Directors of the Association shall be confirmed at the Annual Meeting. Alternate Directors shall qualify and be elected in the same manner as Directors, and shall serve only in the case of inability of the duly elected Director. The President of the Auxiliary and Co-Chairs of the Illinois Soil and Water Conservation District Employees Association from a district in good standing shall be the only members not duly elected by an Illinois Soil and Water Conservation District.

B. Qualification for Association Directors: Association Directors and Alternate Association Directors shall be elected by members of each respective Council prior to the Annual Meeting and their names and addresses shall be reported by the Council to the secretary of the Association two (2) weeks prior to the Annual Meeting.

C. Executive Committee: The Executive Committee shall consist of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, four (4) Area Vice Presidents, immediate past president of the AISWCD if currently serving as a duly elected member of a governing body of an Illinois Soil and Water Conservation District in good standing, NACD Board member and Alternate, NACD Officer (when applicable), and President of the Auxiliary and Co-Chairs of the Illinois Soil and Water Conservation District Employees Association. Executive Committee meetings may be called at any time by the President or by a majority of the Executive Committee members.

Section #2: Officers of the Association. The officers of this Association shall be President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. The officers of the Association shall be elected by the membership.

Section #3: Organization Units. The organization of the Association shall be composed of Soil and Water Conservation Districts in Illinois, and separate corporate bodies incorporated under an Enabling Act of the laws of the State of Illinois.

A. For the purpose of providing representation on the Association's Board of Directors, Districts are grouped into sixteen (16) Councils with one representative from each Council elected to the Board of Directors (Article 7, Section 1).

B. For the Purpose of coordinating the work of the Officers of the Association, the State shall be divided into four (4) Areas. An Area Vice President and an Alternate shall be nominated and elected by the active voting membership of each Area, and confirmed by the active voting membership of the Association at the Annual Meeting (Article 7, Section 2).

Section #4: Personnel of the Association. Personnel of the Association shall consist of such personnel as needed to carry out the duties and goals of the Association.

A. Executive Director: The Executive Committee of the Association may employ an Executive Director to serve under the direction of the President of the Association with concurrence of the Board of Directors.

B. Association Staff: The Executive Committee and Executive Director may employ staff as needed to accomplish goals and objectives of the Association.

ARTICLE #4

Eligibility - Term of Office - Compensation - Duties

Section #1: Eligibility.

A. Eligibility for Officers: In order to become eligible for nomination and election to the Board of Directors, Officers or Executive Committee of this Association, a candidate must be a duly elected member of the governing body of a local Soil and Water Conservation District in good standing.

B. Eligibility for Association Directors and Alternates: They must be duly elected members of a governing body of a Soil and Water Conservation District in good standing at the time they are elected. Council Directors shall be elected by respective Councils. Alternates shall serve only in the case of absence of the duly elected Director.

C. Eligibility for Area Vice Presidents: In order to become eligible as an Area Vice President, they must be District Director in good standing and be nominated and elected by the Area membership in which their District belongs at the State Association Annual Meeting.

D. Eligibility for Committee Membership: Only District Directors and the ISWCDEA appointed district personnel from a district in good standing shall be eligible to serve as a voting member on any of the Association committees. They shall be recommended for an appointment by the committee chairperson appointed by the President of the Association and approved by the Board of Directors of the Association.

E. Eligibility for NACD Board member and Alternate: Board member and alternate to be elected biannually at December Quarterly Board meeting by Association Board of Directors. NACD Board members and Alternate shall come from a district in good standing. The newly elected NACD Board Member and Alternate will take office immediately upon being elected and shall serve until their replacement is elected.

Section #2: Term of Office. The term of the President shall be for two (2) years. The president is eligible for election to a consecutive two-year term. The Vice President and the Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected annually. Should the President be unable to complete the term, the Vice President shall complete the unexpired term and is then eligible for election to 2 two-year terms as President. Newly elected officers and Directors of the Association shall take office at the conclusion of the Annual Meeting and Summer Conference activities.

A. Term of Office for Area Vice Presidents: The term of office for Area Vice Presidents shall be two (2) years and they shall be elected by the delegate body at the Annual Meeting. Area 1 and Area 3 shall elect in the odd-numbered years, and Area 2 and Area 4 shall elect in the even-numbered years.

B. Term of Office to the Board of Directors: An Association Director shall be elected for a two-year term. The Councils designated in Article #7 with an odd number shall elect in the odd years, and the Councils designated in Article #7 with an even number shall elect in the even years.

C. Term of Office for Councils: Council Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected for a two (2) year term by members of each respective Council. The offices of the Secretary and Treasurer may be held by the same person. The Council Officers shall be elected as designated in Article #7 with odd numbered Councils electing in odd years, and the Councils designated in Article #7 with an even number electing in even years. All Council Officers must be a duly elected member of a governing body of a Soil and Water Conservation District in good standing with the Association at the time they are elected. Council Officer elections shall occur prior to the Annual Meeting and shall occur during the months of March, April or May to provide sufficient time for the names and addresses of those elected to be reported by the Council Secretary to the Secretary of the Association no later than two (2) weeks prior to the June Board of Directors meeting.

Section #3: Compensation. Committee members and members of the Board of Directors may receive reasonable compensation for their services and may be reimbursed for expenses including travel expenses, necessarily incurred in the discharge of their duties.

Section #4: Duties.

A. Duties of the President: The President shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Association. The President shall preside at all meetings of the members, at all meetings of the Board of Directors and Executive Committee. The President is authorized to appoint any member of the Board of Directors to represent the President to perform all functions thereof. The President shall, in addition, carry out the directives of the Association Board of Directors. The President shall create or dissolve Association Committees as needed.

B. Duties of the Vice President: The Vice President shall assume and discharge the duties of the President in the absence of that officer and all other duties as assigned to him/her by the President. The Vice President shall serve as Resolution Committee and Legislative Focus Area Committee Chairperson. The Vice President will conduct an evaluation of the Association at mid-year. The Vice President will prepare the Annual Plan of Work.

C. Duties of the Secretary: The Secretary shall be the custodian of all books, papers, records, the official seal and property of the Association. The Secretary shall keep the Corporate Records, shall act as Secretary of the meetings of the Board of Directors and of the Executive Committee. The Secretary will notify Districts of the version of Robert's Rules of Order to be used to conduct the business meeting of the Association. The Secretary shall give, or cause to be given, all notices required to be given, and shall perform such duties as may be assigned by the President. Secretary shall serve as Planning Focus Area Committee and Annual Meeting Task Force Chairperson.

D. Duties of the Treasurer: The Treasurer shall have charge of the assets of this Association, and pay them out as ordered by the Board of Directors, which may be by direct order or duly adopted policy. The Treasurer shall keep accurate account of the receipts and disbursements and submit a record or report thereof to the Board of Directors at their regular meetings, and at such times as may be required. The Treasurer shall give a full and complete report for the fiscal year to the Annual Meeting of the Members. The Treasurer shall be Chairperson of the Financial Management Focus Area Committee and Audit Committee and assist with the preparation of a budget for each of the Committees, the Executive Committee, and General Budget of the Association. The Treasurer shall conduct an annual evaluation of insurance coverage to be reviewed annually. The Treasurer shall maintain an

inventory of equipment, furniture, and furnishings as well as agreements and contracts to be reviewed annually.

E. Duties of the Executive Committee: It shall be the duty of the Executive Committee to assess the goals and assemble information concerning matters of importance to the Board of Directors. The Executive Committee shall direct and guide the Association personnel toward accomplishment of the Association goals as identified in the Association's Annual Plan of Work. They shall review annually the By-Laws of the Association. They shall review resolutions submitted through the Association.

F. Duties of the Executive Director: It shall be the duty of the Executive Director to carry out the goals and objectives of the Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts as outlined in the Association's Annual Plan of Work. The President of the Association and the Executive Committee will determine the priority of duties to be assigned.

G. Duties of the Area Vice President: It shall be the duty of the Area Vice Presidents to assist the President in carrying on the business of the Association in the respective areas from which they are elected. It shall also be the duty of the Area Vice President to contact and meet with each Council in the Vice President's Area at least once in each fiscal year. They shall serve on the Executive Committee and shall submit Area wide concerns.

H. Duties of the Association Director: It shall be the duty of the Association Directors to give direction, information and input to the Board of Directors and Executive Committee from their respective Council. They shall vote on issues brought before the Board of Directors at regular Board meetings or special meetings. They shall report results of Board meetings to Council meetings for local review, discussion and appropriate action. They shall serve on committees of the Association as directed by the President and/or Committee Chairperson. They shall attend their Council Meetings, Association Board Meetings, Association Annual Meeting, Association Committee Meetings, and other meetings deemed necessary by the President.

I. Incapacity of Officers: A vacancy in any office (with the exception of the office of President) because of death, resignation, removal, disqualification, or otherwise, shall be filled by the Board of Directors for the unexpired portion of the term.

ARTICLE #5

Board of Directors

Section #I: Board Meetings. The Board of Directors composed of the Association Directors and Executive Committee members shall meet at least three (3) times a year or as often as the business of the Association requires. Regular scheduled Board Meetings will be held in the months of March, June and December. Each member of the Board of Directors is entitled to one (1) vote on all business to come before each Board Meeting. In the absence of a legal quorum, those present may conduct the business of the Association, with all actions so taken being subject to approval by the Board of Directors at a time when a quorum is declared.

A. Special Meetings: Special meetings of the Board of Directors may be called by or at the request of the President or by a majority of the Board of Directors. The person or persons authorized to call special meetings of the Board of Directors may fix any

place, either within or without the State of Illinois, as the place for holding any special meeting of the Board of Directors. Notice of special meetings shall be given to all board members and shall provide sufficient time to allow for any necessary preparation and travel to attend the meeting. No business may be transacted at a special meeting other than that stated in the call. Such special meetings may take place in person, by conference call or by other available electronic means.

B. Council Meetings: All Councils shall meet at least three (3) times a year or as often as the business of the Council requires.

Section #2: Committees: In order to facilitate the work of the State Association the activities of the Association shall be divided into focus area committees. The Chairperson of each focus area committee shall be a duly elected Director of an Illinois Soil and Water Conservation District in good standing and appointed by the President of the Association. Reports shall be made by the Chairperson of each focus area committee to the board of directors. The Board of Directors shall have authority to approve, reject, revise or refer reports and requested actions back to focus area committee for further consideration. The focus area committees will meet at least once each year. The number of standing focus area committees and committees shall be determined by the President as deemed necessary to carry on the work of the Association with concurrence from the Board of Directors.

A. Standing Committees: The standing focus area committees may include, but shall not be limited to the following: Communications Focus Area Committee, Planning Focus Area Committee, Legislative Focus Area Committee, Financial Management Focus Area Committee, Urban Community and Conservation Focus Area Committee, Education Focus Area Committee, Executive Committee, Resolutions Committee, Nominating Committee and Forestry Committee.

B. Nominating Committee: The Nominating Committee shall annually present a slate of candidates to the delegate body for election as Officers of the Association. The Nominating Committee shall consist of the sixteen (16) Association Directors. The Nominating Committee shall elect the Chairperson from among its members at the December Board Meeting.

C. Resolutions Committee: The Resolutions Committee shall be composed of the Vice President and four (4) Area Vice Presidents. The Vice President shall serve as the Resolution Chairperson. The Resolution Committee shall review resolutions and shall assign resolutions to standing committees for study and comment. The Resolution Committee may work with member Districts to combine similar resolutions. The Resolution Committee will make recommendations to the Board of Directors of appropriate action. All Resolutions submitted to the Resolution Committee will be presented to the delegate body at the Association's annual meeting.

D. Resolution Book Review Committee: The Resolution Committee shall also serve as the Resolution Book Review Committee and shall review the Resolution Book on a yearly basis. Any Resolution in the Resolution Book deemed not relevant to the operation of the AISWCD will be brought forward to the voting Delegate Body of the AISWCD at its annual meeting to be voted on for removal. Delegates will be informed of Resolutions proposed for removal at least 30 days prior to the annual meeting. Any district that is a member in good standing has the right to request that the Resolution be further reviewed before it is brought before the delegate body for removal. In its request for further review, the district will provide reason for making its request. Once the Resolution Book Review Committee has determined that the resolution is no longer relevant to the operations of the AISWCD and that no district

has requested further review, the question shall be put to the voting delegates present. A simple majority of the voting delegates present, voting for removal, will be necessary to remove the Resolution from the AISWCD Resolution Book.

ARTICLE #6

Finance - Service - Sundry Provisions

Section #1: Depository. The funds of this Association shall be kept in a Federally Insured Bank designated by the Executive Committee. Such a depository should be convenient and readily accessible to the Treasurer.

A. Signatures: The signature of the President, Treasurer and the Treasurer's designee (Executive Director), and one other employee as may be deemed necessary and designated by the President shall be on file with the designated depository. The signature cards on file at the depository shall so designate.

B. Bond: The Treasurer shall be required by the Board of Directors to give bond for the faithful discharge of duties in such sum and with such surety as may be determined by the Board of Directors. The premium on any corporate fidelity bond so required shall be paid out by the Association.

Section #2: Distribution of Assets. No distribution of the property of this Association shall be made until all debts are fully paid, and then only upon its final dissolution and surrender of organization and name, and as otherwise provided by law; nor shall any distribution be made except by majority vote of the members of the Association at any regular or special meetings, and only after due notice has been given as prescribed by these by-laws as regards special meetings. However, this prohibition shall not operate to prevent the Association, while acting, from receiving and distributing or disbursing any funds as prescribed by these by-laws. In case of final dissolution of the Association, any funds remaining after all expenses and obligations are fully satisfied shall be distributed evenly to the soil and water conservation districts in good standing at time of dissolution.

Section #3: Fiscal Year. The fiscal year of this Association shall begin with the first day of January and terminate with the thirty-first day of December.

Section #4: Order of Business. The proceedings of this Association shall be conducted under and pursuant to Robert's Rules of Order except as herein otherwise provided.

Section #5: Corporate Seal. The Corporate seal of this Association shall consist of two concentric circles, between which shall be the name of the Association, and in the center shall be inscribed the words "Corporate Seal", and such seal impressed on the margin is hereby adopted as the Corporate Seal of this Corporation.

ARTICLE #7

Section #1: Councils. The Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Illinois shall be grouped into sixteen (16) Councils:

Council # 1: Carroll - JoDaviess - Lee - Ogle - Stephenson - Whiteside
Council # 2: Bureau - Henry - Marshall/Putnam - Mercer - Rock Island - Stark
Council # 3: Grundy - Iroquois - Kankakee - Kendall - LaSalle - Livingston
Council # 4: Fulton - Hancock - Henderson - Knox - McDonough - Warren
Council # 5: Mason - Menard - Peoria - Tazewell - Woodford
Council # 6: DeWitt - Ford - Logan - Macon - McLean - Moultrie - Piatt
Council # 7: Clark - Champaign - Coles - Douglas - Edgar - Vermilion
Council # 8: Adams - Brown - Calhoun - Cass - Greene - Morgan - Pike - Scott - Schuyler
Council # 9: Bond - Christian - Macoupin - Montgomery - Sangamon
Council #10: Cumberland - Effingham - Fayette - Jasper - Shelby
Council #11: Crawford - Edwards - Lawrence - Richland - Wabash
Council #12: Jersey - Madison - Monroe - Randolph - St. Clair
Council #13: Clay - Clinton - Franklin - Jefferson - Marion - Washington - Wayne
Council #14: Gallatin - Hamilton - Johnson - Massac - Pope/Hardin - Saline - White
Council #15: Jackson - Perry - Pulaski/Alexander - Union - Williamson
Council #16: Boone - DeKalb- Kane/DuPage - McHenry-Lake - North Cook - Winnebago - Will/South Cook

Section #2: Areas. The State of Illinois shall be divided into four (4) areas. Areas shall consist of the following Councils:

Area # 1: Councils 1 - 2 - 3 - 16
Area # 2: Councils 4 - 5 - 8 - 9
Area # 3: Councils 6 - 7 - 10
Area # 4: Councils 11 - 12 - 13 - 14 - 15

Section #3: District Alignment. District Boards may request movement from their current Council to another adjoining Council by majority approval from both Councils involved, by majority vote of the Association Board of Directors, and by majority vote of the voting delegates at the Annual Meeting

Revised and Approved - August 7, 2000
Revised and Approved - July 28, 2003
Revised and Approved - August 2, 2004
Revised and Approved - July 23, 2009
Revised and Approved - July 29, 2014

AISWCD President

Attest

AISWCD Resolution 2015-1

Program and Grant Opportunities

Whereas, landowners, urban and rural, require assistance from adequately staffed Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) across Illinois.

Whereas, the AISWCD provides services, such as program and grant opportunities, to SWCDs for opportunities to advance conservation program goals at the local level.

Whereas, costs to administer agreements for program and grant opportunities are paid by the Grantor, making assessment of dues or fees by AISWCD on these funds to subgrantees (SWCDs) inappropriate.

Whereas, SWCDs have endured repeated funding decreases, resulting in major financial hardship.

Whereas, AISWCD services should be available to assist SWCDs with every opportunity to supplement funds to continue operations and provide local conservation programs.

Whereas, services and representation of SWCDs provided by the AISWCD is necessary and valued, every effort will be made by each SWCD to pay dues.

Therefore, be it resolved that the Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts (AISWCD) shall continue to represent SWCDs collectively and be a major presence and voice for conservation at the State level regardless of an individual SWCD's payment of dues.

Approved By:

White County Soil and Water Conservation District – 06/02/2015

Land Use Council 14 – 06/03/2015

Not Supported As Proposed:

Association of IL Soil and Water Conservation Districts Board of Directors – 06/09/2015

AISWCD Resolution 2015-2

NRCS Promoting Conservation via Land User Database

Whereas, it is essential that USDA NRCS has access to up-to-date contact information for land users in order to deliver an effective conservation program.

Whereas, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) field offices can increase conservation education and program participation by mail and email communication with customers.

Whereas, customer information linked to a tract allows NRCS to geographically target specific conservation communications with the aid of Geographic Information Systems (GIS). For example, conservation communications could be targeted to landowners in the 100 year flood plain or a watershed.

Whereas USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) field offices do not have access to a database that includes Farms, Tracts, Owner, Operator, and Contact Information which would allow mail communications.

Whereas, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) maintains the official database of farm records and customer information, procured through Form AD-2047.

Whereas, Form AD-2047, specifies, "The information collected on this form may be disclosed to other Federal, State, Local, government agencies, Tribal agencies, and nongovernmental entities that have been authorized access to the information by statute or regulation and/or as described in applicable Routine Uses identified in the System of Records Notices for USDA/FSA-2, Farm Records File (Automated, USDA, NRCS-1, Landowner, Operator, Producer, Cooperator, or Participant Files, and USDA/RD-1, Applicant, Borrower, Grantee, or Tenant Filed."

Therefore, be it resolved that The Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts and The National Association of Conservation Districts request USDA FSA Headquarters provides NRCS field offices with access to a current database to be used for mailing to promote conservation and NRCS programs. The database should provide easy conversion to a usable spreadsheet format. At a minimum, the database should contain the following information:

State Code, County Code, Farm Number, Tract Number, Operator Last Name, Operator Middle Name, Operator First Name, Operator Formatted Name, Operator Address 1, Operator Address 2, Operator City, Operator State, Operator Zip Code, Operator Phone Number 1, Operator Phone Number 2, Operator Email, Owner Last Name, Owner Middle Name, Owner First Name, Owner Formatted Name, Owner Address 1, Owner Address 2, Owner City, Owner State, Owner Zip Code, Owner Phone 1, Owner Phone 2, Owner Email.

Approved By:

Rock Island Soil and Water Conservation District 04/07/2015

Land Use Council 2 06/01/2015

Association of IL Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Directors 06/09/2015

AISWCD Resolution 2015-3

Wetland Reserve Easement Program and Property Tax Relief

Whereas, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) Wetland Reserve Easement (WRE) program provides public benefit by reducing flooding due to increased floodwater retention.

Whereas, USDA NRCS ACEP WRE program provides public benefit of improving water quality by the natural filtering effect of wetland areas on floodwater.

Whereas, USDA NRCS ACEP WRE program provides public benefit by providing habitat for migrating waterfowl, pollinators, and other native wildlife.

Whereas, USDA NRCS ACEP WRE program provides public benefit by establishing and maintaining a diversity of rare native grasses, forb, and tree species.

Whereas, USDA NRCS ACEP WRE program provides public benefit of improving water quality by reducing soil erosion and sedimentation.

Whereas, USDA NRCS ACEP WRE program permanently removes frequently flooded cropland from production and prohibits future farming and development.

Whereas land enrolled in USDA NRCS ACEP WRE has greatly reduced income potential.

Whereas, many landowners in multiple counties in Illinois have seen their property tax bill increase after enrolling land in USDA NRCS ACEP WRE, while some tax rates remained steady or reduced.

Whereas, consistency in property tax regulation guarantees uniform and fair treatment for land in WRE and aids in accurate program promotion.

Whereas, increased property taxes on land with permanent USDA NRCS ACEP WRE easements have reduced the number of landowners willing to enroll land in the USDA NRCS ACEP WRE program.

Whereas, precedent exists in Illinois for reduced property taxes on vegetative filter strips (35 ILCS 200/10-152) and managed forest land (35 ILCS 200/10-150).

Therefore, be it resolved that The Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts work with the State of Illinois to amend the property tax code to encourage landowners to enroll land in the USDA NRCS ACEP WRE program. Land in permanent wetland easement programs shall have the enrolled acreage assessed at 1/6 of its productivity index equalized assessed value as cropland.

Approved By:

Rock Island County Soil and Water Conservation District 04/07/2015

Land Use Council 2 06/01/2015

Association of IL Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Directors 06/09/2015

Proposed AISWCD By-laws amendment 2015-1

The following is proposed to be amended to the AISWCD's By-laws to clear-up confusion concerning the questions about when Association dues are paid in full and the determination of District "in good standing".

ARTICLE #1 Section #6: Dues

The dues of the Association shall be paid in full annually by January 1.

Proposed amendment

The dues of the Association shall be paid in full within 45 days after receipt of invoice.

ARTICLE#1 Section #5 Membership

A. Active Voting Members: Shall be the Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Illinois, whose dues have been paid in full by January 1 of each year. (subject to Article 1 Section 6, B) which qualifies them to be a district in good standing. Each shall be represented by one delegate and one alternate current director appointed by the District governing body. Each District shall have one vote. A district in good standing shall have privileges of being represented by the Association and directors

able to hold office, vote in Association matters, and participate in Association programs.

Proposed amendment

Active Voting Members: Shall be the Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Illinois, whose dues have been paid in full for the previous 365 days.

Note: This By-Law Amendment, if approved by voting delegates, will be effective immediately.

Approved By:

Association of IL Soil and Water Conservation Districts Board of Directors 06/09/2015