

Association of Illinois Soil & Water Conservation Districts  
67<sup>th</sup> Annual Business Meeting  
Tuesday, July 28, 2015  
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
Northfield Inn Conference Center  
Springfield, Illinois

The meeting was called to order at 1:21 p.m. by AISWCD President Myron Kirby. The Invocation was given by AISWCD Secretary Van Bitner and attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance led by Tom Beyers.

**Roll Call by Van Bitner**

Present were the following counties for the 1<sup>st</sup> Roll Call: **Bond, Brown, Carroll, Cass, Champaign, Christian, Clark, Clinton, Coles, Crawford, Cumberland, DeKalb, DeWitt, Edgar, Effingham, Franklin, Grundy, Hancock, Henderson, Henry, Iroquois, JoDaviess, Livingston, Logan, Macoupin, Madison, Marion, Marshall-Putnam, Mason, McDonough, McLean, Mercer, Morgan, Ogle, Peoria, Perry, Piatt, Richland, Rock Island, St. Clair, Sangamon, Stark, Stephenson, Tazewell, Union, Vermilion, Warren, Washington, Wayne, White, Whiteside, Will-South Cook, Winnebago.** Secretary Van Bitner reported there was a quorum present.

**Introductions**

President Kirby introduced the Parliamentarian Howard Heavener. He also introduced the AISWCD Officers; Vice President Tom Beyers, Secretary Van Bitner, and Treasurer Kenny Vosholler. He then introduced the AISWCD office staff; Executive Director Kelly Thompson and Administrative Coordinator Gina Bean. CREP Resource Specialists were also in attendance according to President Kirby.

**Approve District Voting Delegate Rules**

A motion was made by Iroquois County and seconded by Grundy County to approve the rules as read by Secretary Van Bitner (pg. 47 in the Delegate Packet), motion carried.

**Approval of 2014 Annual Meeting Minutes**

A motion was made by Livingston County and seconded by Madison County to approve the 2014 Annual Meeting Minutes (pgs. 6-7 in the Delegate Packet) as presented with the date needing to be changed from 2015 to 2014 in the date on pg. 6, motion carried.

**Approval of 2014-2015 Board Meeting Minutes**

A motion was made by Richland County and seconded by Peoria County to approve the 2014-2015 Board Meeting Minutes (pgs. 8 – 21 in the Delegate Packet) as presented, motion carried.

**Roll Call by Van Bitner**

Present were the following counties for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Roll Call: **Bond, Brown, Carroll, Cass, Champaign, Christian, Clark, Clinton, Coles, Crawford, Cumberland, DeKalb, DeWitt, Edgar, Effingham, Franklin, Grundy, Hancock, Henderson, Henry, Iroquois, JoDaviess, Livingston, Logan, Macoupin, Madison, Marion, Marshall-Putnam, Mason, McDonough, McLean, Mercer, Morgan, Ogle, Peoria, Perry, Piatt, Richland, Rock Island, St. Clair,**

**Sangamon, Stark, Stephenson, Tazewell, Union, Vermilion, Warren, Washington, Wayne, White, Whiteside, Will-South Cook, Winnebago. Secretary Van Bitner reported there was a quorum present with 53 Voting Delegates present.**

#### **Audit Report**

Tim Cravens with Pehlman & Dold, PC gave the Audit Report which can be found on pgs. 26 & 27 in the Voting Delegate Packet. He went over the Executive Summary of Audit Report on Modified Cash Basis and the Foundation Activity that was handed out to Voting Delegates. **A motion was made by Piatt County and seconded by Marion County to approve the Summary of the Audit Report as given, motion carried.**

#### **Partner Reports**

##### **Auxiliary Report-No Report Given**

**ISWCDEA**-Sondra Baker and Kara Downin gave the ISWCDEA Report and asked the Board Members to stand and be recognized. They stated that the ISWCDEA has been partnering with the AISWCD to do Legislative Day for about 5 years and had increased Director attendance the last two years. This is usually done in March. They have been working on getting Retirement plans in each county according to the District's needs for their employees. There will be training at Winter Training on individual retirement plans. For this year there was a full ISWCDEA Board with every Area being represented. Areas 1, 3, and 5 are up for election this year and they asked Board Members to encourage their employees to serve on the ISWCDEA Board if possible. The deadline for the Outstanding District Employee Award is Friday, October 23, 2015.

**IDOA**-Director Philip Nelson spoke that he had been the Director of IDOA for six months. They have made some changes to some of the Bureaus and have been working on NLRS and NREC. Director Nelson believes the Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy is important and he wants to see the rules be kept voluntary. Speaking as a farmer, he has cover crops and says what we do is vital to agriculture. He knows the lack of a State Budget overshadows what we do and has an impact on our employees. He has shared this with OMB and hopes to see a budget sooner rather than later. He stated he wished he had a better answer for Districts but he does not. Director Nelson says there is an Emergency Declaration by the Governor signed for counties affected by the flooding, some of which he toured last week in Iroquois and Kankakee Counties. **NRCS**-State Conservationist Ivan Dozier gave his report yesterday. He has been detailed to Washington DC for four months and he leaves on August 2, 2015.

**IEPA**-Dick Breckenridge thanked the AISWCD for giving Illinois EPA Director Lisa Bonnett the *Friend of Conservation Award* last night during the Farm Family Banquet. It meant a lot to her and she again sent her appreciation for receiving the Award. He talked about the funding they have been working on with the 319 Grant and the 603 Grant for lakes, they have also issued 7000 Open Burn Permits. Dick mentioned that it is very important to get the Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy at meetings in all Land Use Council areas.

**IDNR**-Luke Garver, CREP Program Coordinator gave the IDNR report. He has been in the job since September 2014. He stated there are 1,386 State Easements which conserve about 90,000 acres. They have been seeing some new enrollments in the Kaskaskia Watershed area. Recently at their Technical Review Team Meeting they had 8 new enrollments to review with 7 of them being in the Kaskaskia Watershed. He has been working on displays for the Illinois State Fair, Farm Progress Show, and the Illinois River Conference. These displays will highlight success stories with the CREP program in the state.

**FSA**-No Report Given (FSA Report was on pgs. 34 – 37 in Voting Delegate Packet)

**Forestry Development Council**-Bill Gradle gave the report and it was also on pg. 43 in the Voting Delegate Packet. A handout entitled "Executive Summary -2016 Regional Conservation

Partnership Program Pre-Proposal: *Improving Oak-Hickory Forest Health in Illinois* was discussed. This is for an RCPP pre-proposal that was submitted July 8, 2015. Bill discussed the 13 groups working with them on this partnership. He also said there are a couple publications in the lobby for attendees of the conference.

### **Resolutions and By Law Amendment**

Vice President Tom Beyers announced that the Resolutions and By Law Amendment are found on pgs. 61 – 64 in the Voting Delegate packet. He went over each Resolution and By Law Amendment as follows:

- **AISWCD Resolution 2015-1 –Program and Grant Opportunities.** Chair recognized Livingston County; Discussion- Chuck Hanley, Livingston County came to the microphone and said that they made motion to reject this Resolution, seconded by DeWitt County, motion carried. Discussion; John Winkleman, Cass County came to microphone to ask why they chose to reject this Resolution? Chuck Hanley, Livingston County responded that things go deeper than what this Resolution proposes and could be very harmful down the road, Cass County said “ok”. **President Myron Kirby asked for a show of cards to reject the Resolution, 52 cards were showing, and then he asked for a show of cards to pass the Resolution and there was 1 card showing, Resolution 2015-1 failed.**
- **AISWCD Resolution 2015-2 –NRCS Promoting Conservation vis Land Use Database.** **Motion made by Rock Island County and seconded by Christian County to approve this Resolution and get it to the floor; Hearing no discussion, President Myron Kirby asked for a show of cards to pass the Resolution, 8 “No” cards were shown and 44 cards for “Yes” were shown, Resolution 2015-2 passed.**
- **AISWCD Resolution 2015-3 –Wetland Reserve Easement Program and Property Tax Relief.** Steve Stierwalt, Champaign County came to the microphone, he said that Champaign County wanted to amend the Resolution, motion was made to put the first motion on the floor, and then amend it during discussion. Motion made by Rock Island County and seconded by Champaign County to approve this Resolution and get it to the floor; Discussion- Steve Stierwalt stated that the Champaign County RC worked with Rock Island County RC to add CREP to this Resolution and he passed out a new amended copy of this Resolution entitled “Permanent Easement Programs and Property Tax Relief”. **A motion was made by Champaign County and seconded by Piatt County to approve Resolution 2015-3 as amended, motion carried. President Myron Kirby asked for vote on the Amended Resolution 2015-3, all cards voted “yes”, Resolution 2015-3 passed as amended.**
- **Proposed AISWCD By-laws Amendment 2015-1.** Vice-President Tom Beyers read the complete proposed Amendment change, it changes the current wording dues should be paid in full by January 1<sup>st</sup> deadline to 45 days after receipt of invoice, dues should be paid. And the second part for Membership, Active Voting Member has been dues paid in full by January 1<sup>st</sup>, changing to dues have been paid in full for the previous 365 days (this would become effective immediately). **Chuck Hanley, Livingston County made a motion, seconded by Grundy County to get it to the floor; Discussion, there was no discussion. President Myron Kirby asked for all in favor of this Amendment 2015-1 show their cards, 51 were shown, and then asked for against the Amendment, one card was shown. Amendment 2015-1 was approved.**

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Resolution/Policy Book: Terminate and Archive Non Relevant Resolutions**

Vice President Tom Beyers went over the Policy Book and Resolution Book that was enacted a few years ago. Resolutions that are looked at annually to see if they are still viable. They created a Policy & Resolution Book with all of the Resolutions that were available from 2004 to 2014. The committee looked at these over the year and submitted their recommendations to the Board at June Quarterly Board. Several were no longer relevant and they were unanimously

approved to remove at the June Quarterly Board Meeting. They recommended putting them on a consent calendar or agenda since this is the first time they are being approved. Report was sent out to Voting Delegates for their review. At this time there have no requests submitted for review of the Resolutions in the Policy and Resolutions Book. Cathy Ruchaj from Will-South Cook asked if written in the packet in Policy and Procedure Manual will be done to those Resolutions. **A motion was made by Henry County and seconded by Effingham County to approve the Termination and Archive all Non Relevant Resolutions, motion carried.**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**New Resolutions to Come Before the Voting Delegate Body**—There were no new Resolutions presented.

**Precision Conservation Management Program**—President Myron Kirby reported that this is an 11 county pilot program with 3 Nutrient Loss Strategy Specialists being hired. They will get baseline data to start and promote the programs in this 11 county area. They will also work with landowners and will travel to other counties to do so. This is still in the works, Laura Gentry from Illinois Corn is on vacation and they expect to get documents signed when she returns. President Myron Kirby said he was asking for support for this program from all Districts. These will be employees of the AISWCD with compensation to the three Districts housing the NLS Specialists. Myron announced that NRCS will offer housing and work stations with computers for the NLS Specialists. A September 15, 2015 date is when computers should be installed. This will be a two-year pilot program and third year it should be sent out statewide.

**Client Gateway Update**—President Myron Kirby reported that this was rolled out recently with NRCS and 13 Districts decided not to participate and they have been covered by other counties so those Districts can make extra funds. It was announced that NRCS, Ivan Dozier, has said that more money will be added so that all Contribution Agreements that were applied for will be funded this year; and there is \$100,000 extra and those will be used for more Contribution Agreements at a later time. Myron also said that Ivan said that these Contribution Agreements are only made possible through AISWCD, otherwise there would be none because he does not have the Administrative Staff to do them any longer.

## **Election of Officers**

Terry Davis, Nominating Committee Chairman stated they met recently at June Quarterly Board and he was presenting the following slate of officers:

- Vice President Tom Beyers
- Secretary Van Bitner
- Treasurer Kenny Vosholler

Terry Davis asked three times if there were any nominations from the floor for any of these positions, hearing none he asked for a motion to accept the report. **A motion was made by DeWitt County and seconded by Washington County to accept the Nominating Committee's Report for Election of Officers, motion carried. A motion was made by St. Clair County and seconded by Effingham County to cast the unanimous vote, motion carried.**

## **Area Vice-Presidents and Alternates Election**

Vice President Tom Beyers stated that Area 1 and Area 3 have elections in odd numbered years. Areas met to hold elections with results as follows:

- Area 1 Vice-President —Jerry Snodgrass

Area 1 Alternate –Chuck Hanley

- Area 3 Vice-President Steve Stierwalt  
Area 3 Alternate –Kenny Hawthorne

**A motion was made by Marshall Putnam County and seconded by Whiteside County to approve, motion carried.**

### **Officers Reports**

**President Myron Kirby**-Myron stated that his first year as President has went by quickly and he is very happy with the new staffing changes that were made with Kelly Thompson becoming the Executive Director and Gina Bean becoming the Administrative Coordinator. He talked about the new safeguards that are in place for handling funds so that hopefully will not be a problem again. Myron stated that he and the office staff worked hard on the Budget to try and get the FY15 funds restored that were suspended. He spoke about working on the Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy, about how important it was for us to be in on this from the beginning. He wants to see more employees hired with more hours not less and hopes to get some of that accomplished by getting more State, Federal, or Private funds into the Districts. His motto is "Boots on the Ground for Conservation".

**Vice President Tom Beyers**-Tom stated that he will give his report in the Legislative Committee report.

**Treasurer Kenny Vosholler**-Kenny said that we made \$7,911 in the Auction last night.

**Secretary Van Bitner**-Van "Thanked" everyone for attending Summer Conference! And he asked for everyone to please fill out the Surveys.

**Executive Director Kelly Thompson**-She is delighted to be doing her first Summer Conference as the new Executive Director. She has done 5 monthly reports and has worked on the website and sent out information about that. Kelly has been working on the Contribution Agreement Sub-Agreements with NRCS. She has been attending meetings to plan the Farm Progress Show which will be in Decatur from September 1 – 3, 2015. She reported on the Pilot Program she has been working on with Illinois Corn and also served on the NLRS Task Force.

### **Comments from Focus Area Committee/Taskforce Chairman**

- Communications-None
- Education-Report submitted on pg. 33 of the Voting Delegate Packet.
- Executive- Myron Kirby again said "Thank You" for attending and for all of the hard work done this year by employees and directors.
- Financial Management-Kenny Vosholler will give report later in the meeting.
- Forestry-Already done earlier in the meeting.
- Legislative- Tom Beyers gave report and thanked everyone for their support and attendance at Legislative Day this year, he believes the event has improved each year. There was about 80 employees and directors in attendance this year. And he also expressed his thanks for everyone helping with the Policy and Resolutions Book.
- Planning-None
- Urban Community and Conservation-Report submitted on pg. 33 of the Voting Delegate Packet.
- Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy Taskforce-Tom Beyers reported that this Taskforce was developed at the March Quarterly Board meeting with 10 Directors, Kara Downin, and Kelly Thompson. They met with the Illinois Farm Bureau in Bloomington and had good discussions and also met with the Council of BMP's. There were 11 Road Shows in June to roll out the NLRS. He also stated the LICA has been asked to put exhibits together by Illinois Corn.

### **Financial Report**

**Membership Dues**-Kenny Vosholler reported that 5 Districts have not paid 2014 second installment dues, 4 Districts have not paid the 2015 first installment dues, and one District has only made a partial payment. Five Districts have not paid 2015 second installment dues. There was some discussion on the 3% of the Operations paid for the dues, it was stated that is how it reads in the Policy Book.

**Acceptance of Audit**-This was done earlier in the meeting.

**2016 Proposed AISWCD Budget**-The proposed Budget for 2016 General Fund Income and Expenses can be found on pgs. 30 – 32 in the Voting Delegate Packet. Cathy Ruchaj from Will South Cook questioned why there isn't a 2015 Budget in the book to compare to the proposed 2016 Budget that show actuals compared to Budget numbers. It was suggested to have a mid-year report sent out showing expenses to actual. Terry Davis (Warren County) commented that the Auditors Report for 2015 showed the income and expenses. **A motion was made by Terry Davis (Warren County) and seconded by McDonough County to recommend the dues at 3% for the upcoming year excluding insurance, motion carried, with 1 "no" vote.**

JoDavies County asked that the 2015 actual amounts be listed in the budget next year for 2016 and be brought to this meeting.

**A motion was made by Christian County and seconded by Stephenson County to approve the Budget as presented, motion carried.**

**Motion was made by Stephenson County and seconded by Warren County to adjourn the meeting at approximately 3:50 p.m., motion carried.**

Minutes submitted by: Sue M. Davis  
AC, Christian County SWCD