



AISWCD

ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS



Meeting Overview

Meeting:

June Quarterly Meeting of the AISWCD Board of Directors

Date & Time:

Friday, June 14th, 2019 | Full Day | 8:30am – 3:00pm

Location:

Illinois Department of Agriculture | John R. Block Building | Auditorium
Illinois State Fairgrounds
1101 E. Sangamon Avenue
Springfield, Illinois

Note: Please use Gate 11 to enter fairgrounds, park.

Schedule:

8:30am – 9:30am | Executive Committee Meeting
9:30am – 12:00pm | Joint Committee Meeting
12:00pm – 1:00pm | Lunch from Gilly's Barbecue (Springfield, IL)
1:00pm – 3:00pm | Board of Directors Meeting

Additional Details:

Due to recent erratic weather and delays in spring planting, a dial-in conference call option is being made available to ensure that a quorum can be reached.

Call# (605) 472-5770 | Access Code:303289

Photo & Poster Contest:

Entries will be available to view during the course of the meeting.

RSVP:

Members of the Board of Directors are kindly asked to RSVP their attendance by Friday, June 7th, 2019. Please call Executive Director Grant Hammer at (217) 494-4340 cell or send an email to ghrant.hammer@aiswcd.org.

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Executive Committee Meeting | 8:30am – 9:30am

1. Call to Order | Steve Stierwalt, President
2. Roll Call | Dale Shumaker, Secretary
3. Consent Agenda Items | Dale Shumaker, Secretary
 1. Previous Meeting Minutes
 2. Approve Agenda
4. Staff Report
 1. Key Updates
 2. Financial Update
8. Old Business
 1. Report on Logo Design
 2. Report on AISWCD Office Building
9. New Business
 1. Dues Deadline Variance (If necessary)
 2. Review of Resolutions Received
(Responsibility of Executive Committee per bylaws Sec. 4, E)
10. Adjournment



Joint Committee Meeting | 9:30am – 12:00pm

1. Call to Order | Steve Stierwalt, President
2. Roll Call of Committee Chairpersons | Dale Shumaker, Secretary
3. Consent Agenda Items | Dale Shumaker, Secretary
 1. Meeting minutes of previous committee meetings
 2. Approve agenda
 3. Accept written reports if available
4. Legislative Focus Area Committee | 9:40am – 10:30am
Tom Beyers, Chairperson
 1. Staff report
 2. Government Relations Updates
 3. 2019 AISWCD Legislator of the Year Award
 4. 2019 AISWCD Friend of Conservation Award
 5. E-Advocacy Tools
 6. Review of Resolution 2019-1
5. Education Focus Area Committee | 10:30am – 11:00am
Jerry Snodgrass, Chairperson
 1. Staff report
 2. 2019 AISWCD George McKibben Scholarship Nominations
 3. 2019 AISWCD Teacher of the Year Nominations
6. Planning Focus Area Committee | 11:00am – 11:30am
Dale Shumaker, Chairperson
 1. Staff Report
 2. 2019 Outstanding Forestry Contribution Award Nominations
7. Financial Management Focus Area Committee | 11:30am – 12:00pm
Dan Duval, Chairperson



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1. Staff Report
 2. Financial Update
 3. SWCD Insurance Update
 8. Other Business as Needed
 9. Adjournment



Board of Directors Meeting | 1:00pm – 3:00pm

1. Call to Order | Steve Stierwalt, President
2. Welcome new Board Members | Josh Curry & Barb Klingler
3. Roll Call | Dale Shumaker, Secretary
4. Consent Agenda Items | Dale Shumaker, Secretary
 1. Meeting minutes of previous committee meetings
 2. Approve agenda
 3. Accept written reports if available
5. Partner Reports (5 minutes maximum please)
 1. IDOA
 2. IDNR
 3. IEPA
 4. NRCS
 5. FSA
 6. ISWCDEA
 7. Auxiliary
6. Committee Reports
7. Area VP Reports
8. Old Business
 1. Report on AISWCD Building
 2. Report on logo design concept
 3. Restoration of Forestry Committee
9. New Business
 1. Resolution Recommendation(s)
 2. Recommendations for Award Winners
10. Executive Session (If necessary)
11. Adjournment



Minutes:

Board of Directors Meeting March 5, 2019 | Crowne Plaza Hotel | Springfield, Illinois

The meeting was called to order at 9:01 a.m. by AISWCD President Steve Stierwalt. Rolls Call was done by Dale Shumaker, Secretary.

Consent Agenda Items: A motion was made by Steve Fulling and seconded by Tom Beyers to approve the Meeting Minutes of previous Board of Directors Meeting on December 11, 2018, the Consent Agenda, and Written Reports if available, motion carried.

Partner Reports:

IDOA Report - Brian Rennecker reported that the new IDOA Chief of Staff is Jeremy Flynn. It was reported that DARTS is going to be changing very soon. It was reported that there was a good turnout for the Conservation Cropping Seminars with about 440 people attending. The new IDOA Director John Sullivan attended the Cropping Seminar in Springfield. The FY19 Grant Agreements are all done; there were 10 that had to have Amendments done.

IDNR Report - It was reported that Colleen Callahan is the new IDNR Director. There has been a turnover in the CREP department, the Division Manager for CREP is Chris Young. Phil Cox and Bob Bedient have both left. Concerns were brought up about CREP/IDNR and how CREP may not be promoted by the Districts much if CREP opens back up. It was discussed that the AISWCD Board and Grant will hopefully plan a meeting with Director Callahan to discuss CREP.

IEPA Report – Christine Davis gave the report. She reported the newly appointed Director, John Kim, had been Acting Director before. Retired Watershed Management Andy Rockenbach has not been replaced. Christine said if they could help with CREP in any way they could, please let them know. IEPA is expecting 319 and 604 grant funding from Federal Government. Christine said to keep in mind this process takes a good amount of time. She has concerns with the amount of SWCD technical help in the state for 319's. NRCS needs to commit to helping at the State Office level, since they need to sign off on any projects for legal purposes, even though the district person might have technical engineering authority. Christine reviewed the GATA process and the accountability and transparency act. She touched on what is expected when districts receive State or Federal funding. Grant Hammer said perhaps a Summer Conference session on GATA would be warranted. Grant also ask Chris if she would be able to give a monthly update for the AISWCD newsletter.

NRCS Report – Ben Schmidt, Assistant State Conservationist for Management & Strategy gave the report. Ben introduced himself and stated he was originally from Illinois. He handed out a flyer entitled NRCS and the 2018 Farm Bill. EQIP will be a priority. Staffing is the biggest challenge right now for NRCS. Their employee cap is 248 and they are at 229 right now. There will be five re-advertisements coming out soon. Ben discussed the computer seat issue. Illinois is behind compared to other states. NRCS is trying to put together a plan to smooth the transition. There have been some hiccups along the way with Citrix. NRCS will be meeting in April with IT. If districts make a good case for a second seat, Ivan said he would review it. The cost to NRCS is \$4,000 - \$5,000. There is a dedicated NRCS person right now dealing with compliance only. The US Secretary of Agriculture has put pressure on NRCS in Illinois to do a workload analysis. Ben would like to see more technical staff in the SWCD's.

FSA Report – No Report.

ISWCDEA Report – Terina Coffey gave the report. She reported a lot of time had been spent discussing the computer seat issue at the last employee board meeting. The technical employees would like a Certified Planner session at Summer Conference.

Auxiliary Report – Judy Beyers gave the report. She thanked everyone for the support throughout the year. She attended the NACD Annual Meeting in San Antonio. The quilt Illinois took to the auction brought a good price. The speaker has been secured for Soil Stewardship. Look at the latest AISWCD news for an example of a press release for the photo contest.

Committee Reports:

Education -- Jerry Snodgrass went over the McKibben Scholarship and the changes made. Randy Molitoris made a motion to accept the changes made in December, seconded by Kenny Hawthorne. Motion carried. Jerry ask that a copy of the changes be sent to him before it was put on the website. National Envirothon registration has raised from \$1500 to \$1800 in 2019. Recommend amending the budget from \$2500 to \$2800 in the budget. The next contract in August with the Envirothon Coordinator will reflect changes for National Envirothon expenses not to exceed \$3000 for the winning team. Jerry made a motion to accept the report, second by Myron Kirby. Motion carried.

Planning – Dale Shumaker went over the venue for Summer Conference, which will be at the Crowne Plaza in Springfield July 15-16, 2019. There is a list of session possibilities for a face to face meeting in the next couple of weeks with committee members to iron out the details.

Legislation - Tom Beyers reported entries are being accepted for Legislator of the Year. A name that had been brought up so far was Charlie Meier, but Tom indicated the committee is open for other suggestions. Also mentioned for the Friend of Conservation award was Amy Walkenbach. Tom went over the resolution process. Grant discussed the Soil Health Bill. Steve Steirwalt, Tom Beyers, and Grant Hammer have met with Director Sullivan. Steve said he felt the new



Director was going to be really engaged. Steve encouraged people to be thinking about any appropriate resolutions. Grant encouraged districts to use AISWCD as a resource.

NLRS – STARR was discussed at the committee. NREC will possibly be on the schedule for Summer Conference. Steve Stierwalt encouraged anything districts were doing towards nutrient loss to keep track of for future reporting. There were no action items.

Financial – Financials were reviewed. There were no action items.

Area VP Reports:

Area 1 – Jerry Snodgrass – There are four councils in Area 1, and only one delegate, Lee Bunting, showed up at Quarterly Board.

Area 2 – David McCormick – Districts in Area 2 are looking forward to Summer Conference.

Area 3 – Kenny Hawthorn – His area has secured a grant to host a Hazardless Materials pick-up which is statewide coming up March 23.

Area 4 – Steve Fulling -- Area has had one Crop Seminar last week, and another one coming up.

Old Business:

Tom Beyers reported there had been a discussion regarding the Forestry Committee at the last board meeting and whether the AISWCD wanted to pursue the committee becoming active again. Steve Stierwalt said they might want to identify people interested and perhaps have a Zoom meeting on potential forestry subjects. He asked the board to be thinking about who would be good for this.

Steve asked Tom to give a report on the NACD Annual Meeting. Tom reported there were no issues of controversy. Steve Stierwalt had an opportunity to make an impromptu presentation of the STARR Program. There will be NACD grants again this year.

New Business:

Those attending voted on two logos from the ones the committee had narrowed it down to. Myron Kirby ask if Steve wanted to appoint a committee to look at the future of the AISWCD building. He said he would be willing to help look at options. Grant reported he would be gathering cost-benefit analysis on repairs, and also an appraisal and possible leasing costs. Terry Davis made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Dan Duval. The meeting adjourned at 11:13 am.

Minutes taken by:

Cindy Moon & Sue Davis



Minutes:

Joint Committee Meeting

March 4, 2019 | Crowne Plaza Hotel | Springfield, Illinois

The meeting was called to order at 1:10 p.m. by AISWCD President Steve Stierwalt. Roll Call of Committee Chairperson was conducted by Dale Shumaker, Secretary.

Consent Agenda Items:

A motion was made by Steve Fulling and seconded by Tom Beyers to approve the Agenda and the Meeting Minutes of previous Joint Committee Meeting on December 10, 2018, and accept written reports if available, motion carried.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Committee Members Present:

Tom Beyers, Chairperson
Terry Davis
Bruce Yingling
Bill Littrell
Kenny Hawthorne

Staff/Advisors/Guests Present:

Grant Hammer, AISWCD
Sue Davis, Minute Taker

Staff Report - Grant stated he has been active in Statehouse Advocacy, he stated 1/3 of the Legislators are new to the General Assembly and a new Governor. He said they have met with the new Director of the Illinois Dept of Agriculture, John Sullivan and he plans to set-up a meeting with the new Director of IDNR, Colleen Callahan and also the new Director of IEPA, John Kim. Grant identified bills that he was alerted to by Mike Hoffmann, Lobbyist. HB 2737 is a Soil Health Bill that adds wording to the SWCD Act and will be presented tomorrow; the AISWCD will be in support of this bill. There were 3 other bills that deal with pollinators.

Legislative Updates - The Farm Bill has been approved and NACD was happy with the outcome of level funding. Implementation has not happened yet. The 2019 Operations money was all sent last Friday to the Comptroller's office. There was discussion on the Legislator of the Year Award and the Friend of Conservation Award, no decision was made.

Resolutions Review: Tom Beyers reported that at this Quarterly Board Meeting and the one in June is the time to look at past Resolutions to see if they have been completed or are no longer relevant and to figure out which ones need to be sunsetted at the Annual Meeting this year, none were reviewed last year. Grant has taken care of the LOGO Resolution, the Forestry Resolution has been discussed with Ivan and the STAR Resolution had been given support and is fully



implemented. There were 6 copies of the LOGO that were available for the attendees to vote on at today's meeting; after that Grant may create a statewide poll for everyone to pick a LOGO for all to use. For the 2019 Annual Meeting, one Resolution has been received from Iroquois County which has to do with gaining support for Cover Crops.

E-advocacy Tools - Grant discussed the possibly of using a program such as Voter Voice on the AISWCD website to give them metrics of who is using the website and what they are looking for. Grant has some experience with a program like this, cost of this program is \$3,000.

NLRS SUB-COMMITTEE

Committee Members Present:
Steve Fulling, Chairman
Steve Stierwalt
Bruce Yingling
Dan Duvall

Staff/Advisors/Guests Present:
Grant Hammer, AISWCD
Sue Davis, Minute Taker

NLRS Updates - Steve stated the Survey Data was down in the amount collected, they may try to match the IDOA Nutrient Loss Reporting periods next year. There has been updates monthly in the AISWCD E-News. There was a ZOOM meeting on February 25th. Kara Downin's presentation from Winter Training on NLRS is on the AISWCD webpage. They are working on the Year 2 Draft Plan and hope to present at Summer Conference and have Julie Armstrong speak. Steve Fulling discussed some upcoming meetings in which they will discuss STAR. Steve Stierwalt said there is 33 Districts in STAR now and possibly 8 more to get their Licenses soon. There was discussion of the STAR Field Tool.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Committee Members Present:
Jerry Snodgrass, Chairman
Randy Molitoris
Steve Stierwalt

Staff/Advisors
Valerie Keener, IDNR
Sondra Baker, Employee
Grant Hammer, AISWCD

Jerry Snodgrass, Chair, called the meeting to order.

Jerry gave a McKibben Scholarship update. He sent a copy of the previous scholarship application to the McKibben family, they looked it over and said whatever the Association wanted to do as far as changes, was ok with them (see December 2018 Education Committee minutes for changes).

Valerie Keener, IDNR reported IDNR had awarded \$16,520.95 in Habitat Action Grants and \$88,815.13 in Illinois Biodiversity Field Trip Grants in 2019. Today is the first day of the new Director, Colleen Callahan. The National FFA recently signed a memorandum of understanding



(MOU) with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The MOU outlines mechanisms for collaboration between state FFA associations and local, state, regional and federal EPA offices. There are new Science and Agricultural Consultants at the Illinois State Board of Education: Caitlyn Walker, Principal Consultant in Science Education and Erica Thieman, Principal Consultant in Agriculture Education. Valerie also reported IDNR is getting Illinois Pollinator Resource Trunks.

Sondra Baker gave an Envirothon report. Sondra reported tests for the State Envirothon were being completed. There have been some changes in point person for Land Use Councils, therefore assigning new liaisons. The National will be held in North Carolina in July. Sondra is planning on attending. Sondra has been gathering sponsors, and letters have been sent to districts regarding sponsorship. \$5,187.84 is the balance in the account. Several more thousand is expected to come in for sponsorships. Grant ask Sondra to send a copy of the sponsorship letter to Sarah Jones. Sondra passed out a handout explaining the line item for the winning Illinois Envirothon team to go to the National Competition. It is currently \$2500; \$1500 for registration and \$1,000 for travel. Registration has raised to \$1800 in 2019. It was suggested the budget be amended to add the additional \$300 for registration this year. Kenny Hawthorne suggested to add \$300 this year, and in the coming year adjust the budget for up to \$3,000, allowing for the raise in registration in coming years. The Accountant for AISWCD will pay the registration fee, and the \$1,000 will be give directly to the team this year prior to traveling. A policy will be created before the new contract in August of 2019 and be brought before the Board of Directors. Jerry encouraged everyone to apply for Teacher of the Year award. He indicated there needs to be more promotion of all the awards. Grant reported all award forms are online.

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Committee Members

Dale Shumaker, Chairman
Steve Stierwalt
Steve Fulling
Dan Duval

Staff/Advisors

Terina Coffey, ISWCDEA Employee Chair
Cindy Moon, Employee
Judy Beyers, Employee
Grant Hammer, AISWCD
Sarah Jones, AISWCD

Dale Shumaker, Chairman, called the meeting to order.

The Summer Conference/Annual Meeting venue was discussed. There have been two Zoom calls by the committee since the last Quarterly Board. The Annual Meeting will be held at the Crowne Plaza in Springfield on July 15th & 16th. There might possibly be a tour on the 14th. Dale explained parking was a concern last year at the Wyndham, and that Grant had been able to secure the same room rate at the Crowne as last year at the Wyndham, with the same service fee. The Crowne has free parking.

Some of the potential topics for Summer Conference that were discussed on the last committee call included:

- Leadership Training for Directors and Staff
- NRCS Training Session
- Forestry session of some sort – Steve Stierwalt mentioned that a possibility might be a Forest Contractor and former DNR employee he had heard speak who has a project called “Let the Sunshine In.”
- Resolution writing session (perhaps someone from NACD)
- Lara Bryant, National Resource Defense Council has reached out to AISWCD to do Cover Crop Seminars
- Cover Crop Termination Session
- Soil Health
- STAR Training
- Directors Forum
- Employee Forum
- Certified Planner – Terina felt this would benefit the technical employees if something could be put together.
- Social Media
- Citrix
- NREC

Director training and what it would encompass was discussed at length, whether it be one time, or in a series. Dale thought it might be a good idea to perhaps look at certification. Jerry Snodgrass reported NACD had a set of training modules at one time, which is what director training had entailed at when AISWCD had offered it before. Terry Davis suggested that perhaps an ethics test for district directors should be a goal.

Judy Beyers reported the speaker at the Stewardship breakfast would be Owen Muelder, who is an underground railroad historian.

Potential keynote speakers include:

- Governor Pritzker
- IDOA Director Sullivan – Lunch day 1 or 2
- IDNR Director Callahan
- IEPA Director John Kim

Potential sponsors were discussed. Sarah Jones said she needed to find new people. Last year there were a lot of small sponsors, AISWCD would like to secure some bigger ones. Grant expressed that it would be good if they could get a dozen \$1,000 sponsors.

Dale said he was disappointed in the silent auction last year. He has gotten feedback that people would like to go back to the live auction this year.



A tour on Sunday afternoon, July 14th, was discussed. Grant said he had a list of things that was not used last year, he will look at that list. A follow-up face to face meeting in the next two weeks with committee members will be held.

FINANCIAL COMMITTEE

Committee Members Present

Dan Duval, Chairman

Dale Shumaker

Steve Stierwalt

David McCormick

Staff/Advisors

Alan Howard, AISWCD

Grant Hammer, AISWCD

Melissa Cable, SWCD Employee

Dan Duval, Chairman, called the meeting to order.

Financials were reviewed. There was very little activity on the grant side. The year financially ended sound. AISWCD will be audited as an accrual-based organization.

Those counties that participated in the NRCS Contribution Agreement need to send a copy of their FY18 audit, or FMP, if they haven't already.

Melissa Cauble gave the Insurance Report – The February bill shows a total of 36 enrolled members, all being on Managed Care. There are 20 with waived coverage. 121 employees are enrolled in life/disability and 12 use the vision coverage only. Three new employees were enrolled in Life and Disability plans, and one new in the Health Plan. Melissa prepared a report of historical SWCD Insurance data for AISWCD for use at Legislative Day. Income for February was \$38,824.81. Balance in the account at the end of February is \$22,103.45.

Other Business

Tom Beyers reported the Des Moines Waterworks versus Drainage Districts suit was found to have no merit. Brian Rennecker, IDOA, reported he had received notice on Government Transparency that Darts was not compliant. Darts will disappear and there will be a new tab on the Department of Ag's website. Brian will be sending out an email to this effect but said districts should save any documents they want for now. Any suggestions on what should be on the new tab, should be sent to the Regional Representatives. The Dept of Ag has 90 days from the date of the notice to get it worked out. It was suggested to Brian that forms be fillable and submit able to the Dept of Ag.

Joint committee meeting adjourned at 4:35.

Minutes taken by: Cindy Moon & Sue Davis



Minutes:

Foundation Board of Directors Meeting March 5, 2019 | Crowne Plaza | Springfield, Illinois

Committee Members Present:

Steve Stierwalt, President
Bruce Yingling, Vice President
Kenny Hawthorne, Secretary
Jeffrey O'Connor, Treasurer
Tom Beyers
Dale Shumaker
Judy Beyers
Jason Anderson

Staff/Advisors/Guests Present:

Grant Hammer, AISWCD
Sarah Jones, AISWCD
Steve Chard, AISWCD
Sue Davis, Minute Taker
Cindy Moon

The meeting was called to order by President Steve Stierwalt. Roll Call was by Kenny Hawthorne and a quorum was reached. A motion was made by Tom Beyers and seconded by Bruce Yingling to approve the Meeting Minutes of the December 11, 2018 Foundation Board of Directors Meeting and the Consent Agenda, motion carried.

Staff Report:

Sarah Jones passed around a new Marketing Piece titled "Let's Get Conservation Done Together" to get input from the Committee. She plans to add to it and put more wording on the back side of the piece. She also passed around the "Draft Action Plan" dated March 2019 and the "Draft Gift Acceptance Policy" dated March 2019. She wanted input from the Committee on these 3 items. It was decided to review these items and take action on them at the next meeting and they would like to have further discussion on adding Real Estate as an item that could be gifted to the Foundation.

Key Updates:

Sarah Jones also discussed bringing in a Financial Management consultant to discuss the Foundation and Sarah has a person in mind and she would set that up. She discussed working on the target goals and some companies that might be contacted for that.

There was discussion on blocking off 2 or 3 hours with a ZOOM Foundation call to go over and teach Conservation Leadership. Jeff O'Connor volunteered to work with Sarah on that to create a solid plan. They will investigate 3 or 4 ideas and prioritize for the next meeting. Per Steve Stierwalt there should be 1 from each Land Use Council for the Conservation Leadership.



There was discussion of having this Conservation Leadership Training at Summer Conference, maybe on an extra day or have it at a future Quarterly Board Meeting.

It was discussed to have a ZOOM call the last week of March. Sarah Jones will send out a poll as to what date would work best for the Committee.

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS

Tom Beyers discussed the Foundation being able to develop a plan with the Illinois LICA to make a showcase farm in Illinois.

A motion was made by Kenny Hawthorne and seconded by Bruce Yingling to adjourn, motion carried.

Minutes taken by: Cindy Moon & Sue Davis