

AISWCD Resolution 2011 – 1

Prevailing Wage Act Resolution

Whereas government cost share involvement in soil conservation is a very cost effective method of environmental protection as opposed to the cost of environmental remediation;

Whereas government cost share programs motivate landowners to use proven methods of soil conservation;

Whereas allocated conservation dollars will go further with a prevailing wage exemption;

Whereas prevailing wage requirements will discourage landowners from entering into contracts with IDOA for soil conservation projects;

Whereas landowners that do enter into a contract may be liable for penalties and fines if a prevailing wage violation occurs;

Whereas government agencies that issue a contract may be liable for penalties and fines if a prevailing wage violation occurs;

Whereas contractors that are unaware that prevailing wage is required may be subject to penalties and fines if a violation occurs;

Whereas the publicity that would occur if a landowner is penalized for a prevailing wage violation on private land would effectively end participation in soil conservation cost share programs;

Whereas loss of participation would eliminate an important test bed for research and development for soil conservation;

Be it therefore resolved that the AISWCD work with Illinois Department of Agriculture and Illinois legislators to draft and adopt an exemption from the prevailing wage act for public work funds expended on privately owned lands.

Adopted by the Marion County SWCD at their May 12, 2011 board meeting.

Approved by: Marion County SWCD Board – May 12, 2011

Not presented yet: Land Use Council 13

Approved by: AISWCD Board – June 14, 2011

Approved by: AISWCD Annual Meeting Voting Delegates – July 27, 2011

AISWCD Resolution 2011 – 2

**A RESOLUTION TO OPPOSE USING THE ILLINOIS PREVAILING WAGE RATE
ON CONSERVATION PRACTICE PROGRAM PROJECTS**

Whereas- The Conservation Practice Program, (CPP) has allowed landowners to use local contractors of their choice for the past 20 years. Local contractors are usually self employed and perform most of the work themselves and/or with family members.

Whereas- Paying prevailing wages would immediately add significant additional cost to the price of each CPP project. This would in turn reduce the number of CPP jobs that could be approved in any given fiscal year.

Whereas- CPP budgets are already so low that most project applications are not funded. Using a prevailing wage would only exacerbate an already serious funding problem.

Whereas- The existing system has worked well and provided quality conservation projects at a locally understood and acceptable rate.

Whereas- The existing system has been in place for over 20 years and we see no reason to change it.

Therefore, be it resolved: The AISWCD will oppose and lobby against any efforts to force SWCDs to adopt the "State Prevailing Wage" system to reimburse labor and machinery costs to complete CPP projects.

This resolution adopted by Land Use Council 12- May 31, 2011
LUC 12 recommends this resolution be approved by the AISWCD

Approved by: Land Use Council 12 – May 31, 2011

Not approved by: AISWCD Board – June 14, 2011

Withdrawn by: St. Clair Co and LUC 12 at AISWCD Annual Meeting – July 27, 2011

AISWCD Resolution 2011-3

Resolution for roofing animal feed lots and manure storage areas

Whereas, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) has deemed feed storage areas and livestock manure as sources of water pollution through rain water runoff.

Whereas, open feed lots immediately adjacent to creeks have limited alternatives to control contaminated runoff.

Whereas, a roof would intercept and divert clean rain water and eliminate the potential for contaminated runoff.

Whereas, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) currently recognizes rigid roof structures as an eligible practice under Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) when all animals on outside lots are placed under roof.

Whereas, some farmsteads have existing feed lots with adequate containment systems that are recognized by NRCS as meeting zero discharge.

Therefore, be it resolved that the Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (AISWCD) petition the NRCS to:

- 1) Add runoff control (roof) over feed storage areas as an eligible EQIP practice.**
- 2) Add runoff control (roof) over outside feedlots as an eligible EQIP practice.**
- 3) Allow a rigid roof structure to be EQIP financed when all animals on outside feedlots not under control are placed under said roof. However animals on outside feedlots with containment systems meeting zero discharge should not be required to be under the new roof.**

Adopted at the July 5, 2011 Carroll County Soil and Water Conservation District board meeting

Approved by: Carroll County SWCD Board – July 5, 2011

Approved by: AISWCD Annual Meeting Voting Delegates – July 27, 2011

AISWCD Resolution 2011-4

Reestablish an annual AISWCD Ag Legislative Day Event (e.g. Breakfast)

WHEREAS, keeping in regular contact with statewide legislators is extremely important to the vitality of SWCD programs and funding,

WHEREAS, statewide SWCD employees, directors, supporters and “Power of 10” networks work diligently to keep in contact with statewide legislators,

WHEREAS, regular correspondence does not equal the value of face-to-face contact made by SWCD employees, directors and supporters with legislators,

THEREFORE, be it resolved the AISWCD shall pursue reestablishing an annual Ag Legislative Day event for statewide legislators and SWCD employees, directors and supporters to attend for the purpose of gaining face time with and educating statewide legislators about SWCD activities and accomplishments.

Approved by: Knox County SWCD June 15, 2011

Approved by: Western Illinois Land Use Council 4 June, 21, 2011

Approved by: AISWCD Annual Meeting Voting Delegates – July 27, 2011