

**Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts  
Education Focus Committee  
Tuesday, March 12, 2013  
Northfield Inn Conference Center – Springfield, IL**

**Members Present**

Jerry Snodgrass, FAC Chair  
Don Beisiegel  
Terry Bogner, Envirothon Chair  
Gerard Fabrizio  
Barb Klinger  
Lee Bunting

**Advisors Present**

Dave Dornbusch, NRCS  
Marty McManus, IDoA  
Valerie Keener, IDNR  
Debbie Ruff, EC  
Rich Nichols, AISWCD  
Tom Beyers, AISWCD Officer

**#1 – Call to Order** - Chairman Jerry Snodgrass called the meeting to order at 9:00am on March 12, 2013.

**#2 – Roll Call** – All in attendance introduced themselves and their affiliation.

**#3 – Approve Agenda** – A motion was made by Don Beisiegel, with second by Barb Klinger to approve the agenda as written; MCVV.

**#4- Approve Minutes** – Motion by Terry Bogner; Seconded by Don Beisiegel; MCVV.

**#5 – IDNR Report** - Valerie Keener reported the following items:

- \$19,000 has been awarded in Schoolyard Habitat Grants.
- Biodiversity Field Trip grants were awarded last week. This year, there were 95 grants awarded in the amount of over \$77,000. Valerie believes that this program will continue to see more applicants with the reduction in school transportation budgets.
- The AISWCD Teacher of the Year information was sent out on the IDNR list-serve on February 20, 2013. Information from this list-serve is picked up by other groups and organizations. Valerie will continue to promote this contest.

**#6 – IDOA Report** - Marty McManus reported the following items:

- Director Training for Region 1 and Region 2 will be March 22 in Princeton. Training for the Open Meetings Act will be provided. Directors from other regions are welcome to attend.
- Cover Crop Initiative – 15 sites have been selected to have signs along major roadways.
- Elliot Legacy and Randy Grove continue to split the Regional Representative duties for Region 5. There is currently a hiring freeze, so there is no timetable for a replacement.

**#7 – NRCS Report** – Dave Dornbusch cited the following:

- Soil Health is the primary media promotion for the Public Affairs division.
- New nutrient management standards are expected to come out this spring.

**#8 - Old Business**

**Envirothon Task Force** – Terry Bogner provided highlights from the report that was submitted by the IL Envirothon Coordinators. Dates to remember:

- April 10 – Last day that a LUC can hold a competition
- April 12 – Registration deadline
- May 1 & 2 – IL Envirothon
- August 4-9 – North America Envirothon at Montana State University

- One major concern is the funding for future North American Envirothons. Canon has been the major sponsor and is reducing their sponsorship by at least half this year. There are no promises for funding beyond this year. Lee Bunting gave a report on what actions are being taken at the national level to find new funding. Tom Beyers discussed some of the possible actions that were discussed at the North Central Region meeting. One thought was to have each student who participates in the North American Envirothon at the local level pay a \$1 entry fee which will be used for the North American Envirothon. If every student were to do so, approximately \$500,000 could be raised annually.
- A motion was made by Gerard Fabrizio, with a second by Terry Bogner to state that Illinois supports the \$1 per student entry fee to help support the North American Envirothon. MCVV.
- Teacher of the Year – This was discussed as part of Valerie Keener's report. In addition, a mailing from the AISWCD was sent to all SWCD chairs to encourage more participation in this contest. An e-notice was also sent out to all on the [Il.all-subscribe@aiswcd.org](mailto:Il.all-subscribe@aiswcd.org) list serve.
- The discussion about the list-serve followed. It was brought up that very few Directors are currently subscribed.
- A motion was made by Lee Bunting, with a second by Tom Beyers to "Direct the AISWCD to contact all SWCD Chairs to secure e-mail addresses for the purpose of keeping Directors and Boards informed of AISWCD activities and issues. MCVV.

#### **#9 - New Business**

- Envirothon Sponsorships – Discussed as part of Old Business
- McKibben Scholarship Review Committee – No review committee was appointed. The winner will be decided at the June Quarterly Board meeting. If more than 5 applications are received by the AISWCD, the committee requested that they be sent to all committee members prior to the June meeting.
- 2013 AISWCD Annual Meeting Photo and Poster Contest – No action was taken as this project is done by the AISWCD Auxiliary.
- 2013 Annual Meeting Director Training Session – Lee Bunting and Jerry Snodgrass will be conducting sessions during the Annual Meeting.

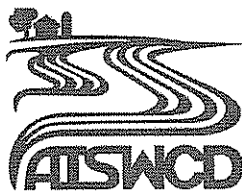
**#12 - Adjournment** - A motion to adjourn was made by Barb Klinger; second by Don Beisiegel; MCVV. Meeting adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Meeting Minutes taken by: Debbie Ruff, AC Livingston County SWCD

Approved by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



association of illinois

**SOIL &  
WATER**

conservation districts

# **Financial Mgmt Focus Area Committee Agenda**

**Kenny Vosholler, Chairman**

June 10, 2013 @ 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Crystal Room - Northfield Inn & Suites, Springfield, Illinois

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1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approve Agenda
4. Approve Minutes from March '13 FAC Meeting (Pages 32-33)
5. Review/Approve Financials (Pages 34-38 & see Hand out)
6. Review/Approve SWCD Insurance-presented by Melissa Cauble (Pages 39-41 & see Hand out)
7. Old Business
  - a. FY 2013 SWCD Dues Update (See Hand out)
8. New Business
  - a. Review/Approval-FY 2012 AISWCD/Foundation Audit Summary (See Hand out)
9. Adjournment

**AISWCD Financial Management Focus Area Committee Minutes  
March 12, 2013**

**Present:**

Kenny Vosholler, Chairman  
Van Bitner  
Roger Johnson  
David McCormick  
Steve Stierwalt  
Lee Bunting  
Dan Duval  
Randy Molitoris  
Darrell Roegge  
Barb Klinger  
Cindy Moon, District Employee, Recorder  
Sherry Finn, AISWCD Administrative Assistant  
Melissa Cauble, SWCD Insurance Administrator

**Absent:**

Tom Anderson

Chairman Kenny Vosholler called the meeting to order at 10:35 am.

**Van Bitner made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Roger Johnson; MCVV.**

**Roger Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 2012 FAC meeting, seconded by Barb Klinger; MCVV.**

**Financials:**

Committee members reviewed Financials. **Lee Bunting made a motion to approve the financials, Roger Johnson seconded the motion. MCVV.**

**SWCD Insurance – Melissa Cauble gave the report using February figures (see report attached to board meeting minutes). Motion by Roger Johnson to approve the Insurance Administrator's Report, seconded by Barb Klinger; MCVV**

**Old Business**

**Dues Update** - Sherry Finn gave an update. For FY 2013 – there are nine districts out of 97 who have not paid their first quarter dues. They are: Adams, Carroll, Clinton, Gallatin, Greene, Jefferson, Pope-Hardin, Randolph, and Scott. Total for delinquent dues is \$3,251.17. Since 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter allocation has been sent out, invoices for dues for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter will be sent out in the next week or ten days.

**Van Repairs** – Sherry Finn reported the van is scheduled for repair.

**Website Update** – Julie West has started with some ideas, and sent a couple of different designs to Rich Nichols and Kelly Thompson. As soon as she gets the OK from Rich and Kelly, Julie will have a sample for them to look at.

**Budget Update** – Sherry went through the budget. It was noted line number 5401 amount had been changed due to the cost of the audit going down. **Motion by Lee Bunting, seconded by Barb Klinger to approve the amended budget; MCVV.**

**New Business**

**Audit Date** – Sherry Finn reported she would know on March 28<sup>th</sup> when the audit date would be. Kenny Vosholler reported that because of the AISWCD 990 nonprofit status, the IRS had selected them to have an audit for the year 2010. The audit will take place March 25 – 28 at the AISWCD office.

**Kelly Thompson Salary** – This item was tabled from the December 2012 meeting. After discussion a **motion was made by Randy Molitoris, seconded by Van Bitner to grant Kelly a 4% raise. Motion carried with one descending vote made by Darrell Roegge.**

**A motion was made by Darrell Roegge to adjourn the meeting.**

The meeting adjourned at 11:40 am.

Minutes taken and submitted by:

*Cindy Moon*

Approved by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Association of IL Soil and Water Cons. Dist. Foundation**  
**Foundation Profit & Loss**  
**April 2013**

	<u>Apr 13</u>
Income	
4410 - INTEREST INCOME	<u>4.92</u>
Total Income	<u>4.92</u>
Expense	<u>0.00</u>
Net Income	<u><u>4.92</u></u>

**Association of IL Soil and Water Cons. Dist. Foundation**  
**Foundation Balance Sheet**  
As of April 30, 2013

	<u>Apr 30, 13</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
1020 · CHECKING-BOS FOUNDATION	18,615.88
1022 · CASH-BANK OF SPFLD SAVINGS	2,038.72
1024 · CDs FOUND. RESTRICTED-McKibben	20,239.02
1026 · FOUND. ENDOWMENT BOS-Building	3,830.94
Total Checking/Savings	<u>44,724.56</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>44,724.56</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b><u>44,724.56</u></b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	
Equity	
3210 · TEMP RESTRICTED NET ASSETS	4,925.19
3220 · NET ASSETS RESTRICTED	25,545.74
3900 · Retained Earnings	15,135.05
Net Income	-881.42
Total Equity	<u>44,724.56</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b><u>44,724.56</u></b>

**Association of IL Soil and Water Conservation Districts**  
**AISWCD Profit & Loss**  
**April 2013**

	Apr 13
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
4000 · DUES	
4001 · MEMBERSHIP DUES	49,543.80
Total 4000 · DUES	49,543.80
4400 · Miscellaneous REVENUE	
4415 · Quarterly Board REVENUE	76.45
4403 · Earth Stewardship Day Revenue	1,000.00
4400 · Miscellaneous REVENUE - Other	102.87
Total 4400 · Miscellaneous REVENUE	1,179.32
4500 · INTEREST INCOME	
4501 · ENVIROTHON INTEREST	4.73
4502 · GRANTS INTEREST	33.62
4503 · GENERAL FUND INTEREST	19.05
4504 · BUILDING INTEREST	0.83
Total 4500 · INTEREST INCOME	58.23
Total Income	50,781.35
Expense	
5000 · PAYROLL	
5001 · SALARIES	26,786.46
5002 · FICA/MEDICARE	2,155.19
5003 · FUTA EXPENSE	335.77
5004 · SUTA EXPENSE	128.21
5000 · PAYROLL - Other	1,386.00
Total 5000 · PAYROLL	30,791.63
5100 · EMPLOYEE HEALTH INS.	
5112 · Empl HealthIns (Off. Asst.)	521.67
5111 · Empl Health Ins (CRS)	3,560.70
5107 · Empl HealthIns (Project Coord)	600.16
5106 · EMPLOYEE HEALTH INS (Adm Asst)	588.69
5101 · EMPLOY HEALTH INS.(ExecDir)	124.29
Total 5100 · EMPLOYEE HEALTH INS.	5,395.51
5200 · INSURANCE	33.45
5300 · CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	
5301 · Public Affairs Coordinator	2,000.00
Total 5300 · CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	2,000.00
5500 · TRAVEL	
5501 · EMPLOYEE MILEAGE	87.31
5502 · EMPLOYEE TRAVEL	188.86
Total 5500 · TRAVEL	276.17
5600 · ANNUAL MEETING	
5603 · ANNUAL CONF-AWARDS	9.43
5607 · ANNUAL CONF-OTHER	113.56
Total 5600 · ANNUAL MEETING	122.99
5700 · QUARTERLY BOARD MEETINGS	
5705 · BOARD MEETINGS-Conf Calls	8.57
5701 · BOARD MEETINGS-LODGING	313.60
Total 5700 · QUARTERLY BOARD MEETINGS	322.17
5900 · LEGISLATIVE	
5906 · Legislative-Miscellaneous	654.97
5904 · LEGISLATIVE DAY	11.63
Total 5900 · LEGISLATIVE	666.60
6100 · ENVIROTHON EXPENSE	
6115 · Envirothon Coordinator	635.00
6105 · STATE ENVIROTHON COMPETITION	39.09



**Association of IL Soil and Water Conservation Districts**  
**AISWCD Profit & Loss**  
**April 2013**

	Apr 13
Total 6100 · ENVIROTHON EXPENSE	674.09
6200 · OFFICE NEEDS	
6201 · OFFICE SUPPLIES	488.47
6204 · COPIER LEASE	84.00
6205 · POSTAGE/DELIVERY	88.36
Total 6200 · OFFICE NEEDS	660.83
6300 · BUILDING EXPENSES	
6302 · UTILITIES	79.77
6303 · SNOW REMOVAL/LAWN CARE	65.00
6306 · PROPANE	145.00
6307 · MAINTENANCE ACCOUNT	4.62
6310 · SECURITY SYSTEM	117.00
6311 · GARBAGE	54.75
6313 · TELEPHONE	186.32
Total 6300 · BUILDING EXPENSES	652.46
6400 · MEMBERSHIPS/REGISTRATIONS	38.00
6500 · GRANTS EXPENSE	
6506 · IGIG1113	
6506-2 · Construction	7,854.00
Total 6506 · IGIG1113	7,854.00
6550 · IUM Coordinator Expense	
6550-3 · Thompson-IUM Coordinator	129.03
6550-1 · Conferences	215.70
Total 6550 · IUM Coordinator Expense	344.73
6505 · 3191103-IL Urban Manual Update	
6505-5 · Subcontractor-Standards Updates	2,897.91
Total 6505 · 3191103-IL Urban Manual Update	2,897.91
6502 · CREP	
6502-01 · 3191202-CREP RS AcctI	1,668.16
Total 6502 · CREP	1,668.16
Total 6500 · GRANTS EXPENSE	12,764.80
6600 · VEHICLE	
6602 · VEHICLE MAINTENANCE	625.32
Total 6600 · VEHICLE	625.32
6700 · INTERNET/WEBSITE	
6702 · INTERNET SERVICE	79.95
Total 6700 · INTERNET/WEBSITE	79.95
6900 · OTHER	
6901 · BANK CHARGES	33.04
6902 · MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSE	242.77
6904 · FarmProgressShowExp	6.07
6905 · Earth Stewardship Day Expenses	150.77
6908 · IFA EXPENSES	9.66
Total 6900 · OTHER	442.31
Total Expense	55,546.28
Net Ordinary Income	-4,764.93
Net Income	-4,764.93

**Association of IL Soil and Water Conservation Districts**  
**AISWCD Balance Sheet**  
As of April 30, 2013

	Apr 30, 13
<b>ASSETS</b>	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
1 · CASH-BOS GENERAL FUND	81,587.13
2 · CASH- BOS ENVIROTHON	16,689.79
3 · CASH-BOS GRANTS	121,248.75
4 · CASH-WSB BUILDING	9,223.54
Total Checking/Savings	228,749.21
Total Current Assets	228,749.21
Fixed Assets	
1401 · FIXED ASSETS	
1550 · ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION	-43,290.02
1500 · FURNITURE, FIXTURES & EQUIP	31,228.15
1450 · BUILDING	273,416.19
1475 · Vehicles	11,274.53
Total 1401 · FIXED ASSETS	272,628.85
Total Fixed Assets	272,628.85
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>501,378.06</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabilities	
2100 · Payroll Liabilities	
2105 · FWT, FICA, Medicare Payable	6,963.38
2110 · STATE W/HOLDING PAYABLE	1,466.20
2115 · FUTA PAYABLE	579.05
2120 · SUTA PAYABLE	133.11
2125 · VOLUNTARY LIFE INSURANCE	145.36
Total 2100 · Payroll Liabilities	9,287.10
Total Other Current Liabilities	9,287.10
Total Current Liabilities	9,287.10
Long Term Liabilities	
2550 · N/P-National Bank of Petersburg	11.30
2600- BOND PAYABLE TO FCS	450.65
Total Long Term Liabilities	461.95
Total Liabilities	9,749.05
Equity	
3200 · RETAINED EARNINGS - PRIOR	142,907.23
3900 · Retained Earnings	441,424.94
Net Income	-92,703.16
Total Equity	491,629.01
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>501,378.06</b>

**SWCD OF ILLINOIS INSURANCE**  
**Profit & Loss Budget Performance**  
**April 2013**

	Apr 13	Budget	Jul '12 - Apr 13	YTD Budget	Annual Budget
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>					
<b>Income</b>					
AISWCD Life-LTD Premiums	2,243.00	107.00	5,675.99	425.00	425.00
COBRA Paid Premiums	843.54	1,687.00	16,870.80	17,714.00	21,088.00
Employee Paid Own Premiums	56,459.00	88,410.00	289,703.00	350,510.00	350,510.00
Interest	27.68	45.00	372.78	230.00	300.00
Miscellaneous Income	397.50		397.50		
State Allocation	0.00	0.00	1,376,755.00	1,376,755.00	1,376,755.00
STD Insurance	3,871.29	6,798.00	26,300.61	25,586.00	25,586.00
Voluntary Life Insurance	0.00	2,484.00	4,819.70	9,788.00	9,788.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>63,842.01</b>	<b>99,531.00</b>	<b>1,720,895.38</b>	<b>1,781,008.00</b>	<b>1,784,452.00</b>
<b>Expense</b>					
Administrator Wages Reimbursed	2,000.47	0.00	8,948.45	10,188.00	13,584.00
Liability Insurance	0.00	0.00	518.33	1,665.00	1,665.00
LTD Premiums	783.18	779.00	7,680.34	7,790.00	9,348.00
Miscellaneous	257.78	100.00	626.64	1,000.00	1,200.00
Monthly Premium Health	131,629.00	144,422.00	1,380,255.00	1,443,393.00	1,732,237.00
Monthly Premium Life	545.40	570.00	5,376.96	5,700.00	6,840.00
Monthly Premium Voluntary Life	897.87	828.00	8,253.39	8,280.00	9,936.00
Postage	57.25	30.00	146.87	290.00	350.00
STD Insurance Premiums	2,351.80	2,266.00	23,026.85	22,660.00	27,192.00
Wrk Comp - Liability Insurance	0.00	0.00	-9,867.00	1,244.00	1,244.00
Yearly CPA Audit	0.00	0.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>138,522.75</b>	<b>148,995.00</b>	<b>1,426,965.83</b>	<b>1,504,210.00</b>	<b>1,805,596.00</b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>-74,680.74</b>	<b>-49,464.00</b>	<b>293,929.55</b>	<b>276,798.00</b>	<b>-21,144.00</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>-74,680.74</b>	<b>-49,464.00</b>	<b>293,929.55</b>	<b>276,798.00</b>	<b>-21,144.00</b>

**SWCD OF ILLINOIS INSURANCE**  
**Balance Sheet Prev Year Comparison**  
**As of April 30, 2013**

	<u>Apr 30, 13</u>	<u>Apr 30, 12</u>	<u>\$ Change</u>	<u>% Change</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>				
Current Assets				
Checking/Savings				
AISWCD - Illinois Funds	682,446.84	695,281.07	-12,834.23	-1.85%
Total Checking/Savings	682,446.84	695,281.07	-12,834.23	-1.85%
Accounts Receivable				
Accounts Receivable	-34.20	-0.10	-34.10	-34,100.0%
Total Accounts Receivable	-34.20	-0.10	-34.10	-34,100.0%
Other Current Assets				
Undeposited Funds	120.03	0.00	120.03	100.0%
Total Other Current Assets	120.03	0.00	120.03	100.0%
Total Current Assets	682,532.67	695,280.97	-12,748.30	-1.83%
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<u>682,532.67</u>	<u>695,280.97</u>	<u>-12,748.30</u>	<u>-1.83%</u>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>				
Liabilities				
Current Liabilities				
Accounts Payable				
Accounts Payable	360.00	0.00	360.00	100.0%
Total Accounts Payable	360.00	0.00	360.00	100.0%
Total Current Liabilities	360.00	0.00	360.00	100.0%
Total Liabilities	360.00	0.00	360.00	100.0%
Equity				
Retained Earnings	388,243.12	367,869.41	20,373.71	5.54%
Net Income	293,929.55	327,411.56	-33,482.01	-10.23%
Total Equity	682,172.67	695,280.97	-13,108.30	-1.89%
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<u>682,532.67</u>	<u>695,280.97</u>	<u>-12,748.30</u>	<u>-1.83%</u>

# **SWCD of Illinois Insurance Plan Administrator's Report to AISWCD April 2013**

**COBRA** – As of April 30, 2013, we have one participant in COBRA; a former employee. I filed one COBRA termination notice with CMS. One COBRA initial notice was mailed to a new employee. No COBRA election notices were mailed.

**Administration** – Administration included processing of April 2013 invoices and processing the one COBRA invoice. The CMS May billing reflected 157 participants in our health care plan. The participants include 126 participants in a managed care program, 14 participants in the LGHP (Local or Quality Care) program and 17 have waived coverage. I added one new employee, had one retiree, one resignation, two employees transfer between districts and one full-time employee retire, but stay on part-time. I attended the CMS Seminar to learn of changes to the health plan and learn our rates for the year and met with Al Orelt and Mindy Fuhrhop of Standard to learn our rates and discuss benefits of the life and disability programs.

**Financials** – Income for April was \$63,842.01 with expenses totaling \$138,522.75, resulting in a net loss of \$74,680.74. The checkbook balance in the insurance account as of April 30, 2013 was \$682,446.84 with \$-34.20 cents in accounts receivable which will be treated as a credit balance toward Monroe county's next billing, due to the resignation of their RC. Billings have been received and paid as follows for May:

CMS	\$ 131,228.00
The Standard	\$ 4,491.93
AISWCD	\$ 30.76 (refund of premium)
Sangamon Co. SWCD	\$ 46.58 (refund of premium)

Sincerely,  
Melissa Cauble  
Montgomery County SWCD



association of illinois

**SOIL &  
WATER**

conservation districts

## **Forestry Committee Agenda**

**David McCormick, Chairman**

June 10, 2013 @ 2:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Jade Room - Northfield Inn & Suites, Springfield, Illinois

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1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approve Agenda
4. Approval of March '13 Meeting minutes (Pages 43-45)
5. Advisors' Reports
  - A. IDOA
  - B. IDNR
  - C. NRCS
  - D. IEPA
  - E. Others
6. Old Business
  - A. Workshops
  - B. TSP (Technical Service Providers) Information Update
  - C. Burn Bosses Update
  - D. IFDC (IL Forestry Development Council) packets Update
7. New Business
  - A. Responses from Governor and Group Letters
8. Adjournment

**AISWCD Quarterly Board Meeting  
Forestry Committee  
Tuesday, March 12, 2013 @ 9:45 am  
Northfield Inn Conference Center – Springfield, IL**

**Present:**     Member  
Tom Beyers  
Terry Davis  
David McCormick, Chairperson  
Darrell Roegge  
Advisors  
Wade Conn, NRCS  
Elliot Lagacy, IDOA  
Ray Herman, RC&D and Tree Farm  
Recorder  
Gina Bean, AISWCD  
Other  
Mary Murphy, IFA Executive Director  
Rich Nichols, AISWCD Executive Director  
Bill Gradle, IFA

**Absent:**     Member  
Tom Anderson  
Barb Klinger  
Randy Molitoris  
Advisors  
Dave Bishop, Retired RC  
McLean Co SWCD  
Dick Breckenridge, IEPA  
Mike Mason, IDNR  
Dan Schmoker, IWPA  
Paul Deizman, IFA

**Call to Order:** David McCormick called the meeting to order at 9:52 am.

**Approve Agenda:** Ray Herman mentioned to add IFDC (Illinois Forestry Development Council) to the agenda. All approved

**Approval of Minutes:** Tom Beyers motioned to approve the December 2012 Minutes as presented.

2<sup>nd</sup> by : David McCormick

Carried: Yes

**Advisors Report:**

- IDOA – Nothing to report
- IDNR – Not present
  
- NRCS – Wade Conn reported on the TSP (Technical Service Providers) process. He said they are professional Foresters but are not affiliated with an agency. They do produce a cap force management plan. It's a plan to address all different plans and allows a landowner to only need one plan. There have been 200 plans produced since May 2011. NRCS has found its being adopted. These plans give the TSPs specific treatment targets. A TSP process and certification is just for NRCS and just when they pay for the plan. Ray Herman asked how many TSPs there are around the state. Wade Conn responded by saying there were 35 to 40 scattered around the state six months ago.  
Wade Conn also wanted to mention the NRCS and IDNR Contribution Agreement. Two years ago there was money with DNR for a formal contribution agreement. DNR used that money to hire people to missing positions. Three of four Foresters are hired. The fourth Forester will be located around Carbondale.

Ray Herman asked about EQUIP money. Wade Conn answered and said that money is limited. He also let Mr. Herman know that each area has their own money to distribute and own decisions where it goes. Bill Gradle said that how agencies release money has to go all the way back to Washington.

Mary Murphy asked if Technical Service Providers are only employees. Wade said they are not an employee but are certified. Mary wanted to know if there was any way to find out where and how much money. Wade told her that the county area offices would know and that he could get her a list.

- IEPA – Not present

Ray Herman took this time to talk about upcoming meetings for DNR. There will be four. The one in Bloomington was canceled due to weather. There will be another meeting in Belleville on March 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. Chris Evans is the contact person for this meeting. IDNR was supposed to get input from individuals. He said Chris Evans wanted feedback on what people thought about invasive species. His number is 618-364-7261. Mr. Herman said it would be good to pass down to the Districts so they know about meetings.

Ray Herman took the discussion back to the subject of the IEPA. He would like to see modifications in their permitting process and that it would be good to extend through three burning sessions. Right now it only goes through two burn sessions. This would help producers and give them more flexibility.

- Other

1. RC&D – Ray Herman reported. He said they are hoping to move ahead with assimilating South Eastern Burn Association. They need to hire a burn boss and line up burn plans and permits. He thinks there is grant money out there for it to control species. Rich Nichols said to find an organization who would sponsor burn insurance and set up process. Districts could buy short term policies. Mr. Herman said that most farmers have their own liability insurance, but that the burn boss would need liability insurance. Terry Davis said that the Illinois Fire Service Institute might be interested in a group to be burn bosses. He will look into it.
2. Tree Farm Group- Ray Herman reported. He said they are going to try and coordinate with others for a more uniformed process and are trying to set up a local Forestry Committee. There will be a Field Day at a local farm on October 5<sup>th</sup>. All are invited. The program is not final yet, but you will get to see three techniques of seed planting.

Ray Herman wanted to know who was doing lobbying for the IFA. Bill Gradle answered his question by saying that they have pulled back on lobbying and are trying to concentrate on building memberships.

### **Old Business:**

- Forestry Issues:

1. Letter to Governor – Rich Nichols said that nothing had been done yet because they weren't told to. Terry Davis said the letter would have to be recommended to the Board. Wade Conn said that restoring a cost share program through the IFDA should be in the letter. Right now that is roughly \$625,000 a year.
  2. IFA Speaker at AISWCD Annual Meeting – Bill Gradle said that Stephanie Brown has agreed to speak at the Annual Meeting. Rich Nichols said he would follow up with her and talk to her about what topic she would like to talk about. Ray Herman said that, originally, Stephanie was going to talk on the 4% topic. He also felt that it would be good for her to have a table set up at the Annual Meeting.
  3. Letters to Groups – Terry Davis said that letters were sent out.
- AISWCD roll in Forestry Tax – Terry said they would bring it up later in the day.



**New Business:**

- Outstanding Forestry Award Recommendation: Ray Herman suggested that Rollie Spaniol be nominated. He has been active in all the Forestry groups around the state. The award goes to someone who is doing outstanding with Forestry in the state. Terry Davis said he would go ahead and nominate Rollie Spaniol for the Outstanding Forestry Award.
- IFA Sponsorship of Forestry Award – Terry Davis asked if the IFA was willing to sponsor the award. Bill Gradle said they could do that in the form of a \$25 plaque which will go to Rollie Spaniol. Ray Herman said that the Tree Farm Group would co-sponsor the award.
- Nominee Suggestion to the AISWCD President for an AISWCD Representative/IL Forestry Development Council – Terry Davis nominated David McCormick. Bill Gradle said that David needs to let the group know he will be joining them.
- IFDC Grant (Illinois Forestry Development Council) - Ray Herman said that he helped Rich Nichols prepare a grant for Forestry through DNR. He passed around a folder called Call Before You Cut. Mr. Herman said it needs to be decided with DNR what they want in the folder and that it needs to be ready by Summer Conference. He also said that someone needs to meet with Mike Mason because Mason will be officially passing out the money for it. Ray Herman also said they applied for a second grant option but it was not funded. The grant asked for the woodland groups assist the Forestry Committee to hold four regional meetings around the state.

**Adjournment: Terry Davis motioned to adjourn the meeting at 11:03 p.m.**

**2<sup>nd</sup> by: David McCormick**

**Carried: Yes**

**Minutes taken by Gina Bean, AISWCD Office Assistant**

Approved by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



association of illinois

**SOIL &  
WATER**  
conservation districts

## **Legislative Focus Area Committee Agenda**

**Tom Beyers, Chairman**

June 10, 2013 @ 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Diamond Room - Northfield Inn & Suites, Springfield, Illinois

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1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approve Agenda
4. Approval of March '13 FAC Meeting Minutes (Pages 47-48)
5. Legislative Update: Mike Hoffmann
6. Partner Reports
7. Old Business
  - a. Memorandum of Understanding Update
  - b. Legislative Action Group Update
  - c. FSA office closures Update
  - d. House/Senate Bills Updates
  - e. 2013 AISWCD Annual Meeting-Legislator of the Year Update
  - f. 2013 AISWCD Annual Meeting-Friend of Conservation Update
  - g. FY 2012 AISWCD Resolutions Update
8. New Business
  - a. FY 2013 AISWCD Annual Meeting Resolutions (see hand out)
  - b. 2013 Legislative Tour-Peoria, IL
  - c. NACD Legislative Conference- Washington, D.C.
  - d. FY 2013 State Budget
9. Adjournment

**Legislative Focus Area Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**AISWCD Quarterly Board**  
**Northfield Inn, Springfield, IL**  
**March 12, 2013**

**Members/Advisors Present:**

Tom Beyers, Chairman  
Terry Bogner  
Tess Chadwick, NRCS  
Sue Davis  
Steve Fulling  
Mike Hoffmann, AISWCD Lobbyist  
Carlyn Light  
Dale Shumaker  
Lee Bunting  
Jim Todd  
Rich Nichols  
Betty Buckert

**Members/Advisor Absent:**

Dick Breckenridge, IEPA  
Steve Chard, IDOA  
Terry Davis  
Ken Kesler  
Mark Roth  
Joe Rothermel

Chairman Tom Beyers called the meeting to order. Roll call was done by Sue Davis.

Approval of Agenda- **A motion was made by Carlyn Light and seconded by Terry Bogner to approve the agenda as presented, motion carried.**

**A motion was made by Terry Bogner and seconded by Dale Shumaker to approve the December 10, 2012 minutes as presented, motion carried.**

Legislative Update- Mike Hoffmann reported that in the Governor's budget the Soil and Water Conservation Districts had an increase of \$600,000 which was \$3 million in Operations and \$4.5 million for Cost Share. He had spoken with Legislative staff yesterday and expressed gratitude that we had gotten this increase included. Some ideas are being expressed as ways to fund SWCD's since the Gaming Bill was vetoed by the Governor.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Strategic Planning Goals-**

- Memorandum of Understanding-There has been a Task Force created to look at this and update it to a more current and relevant form.
- Legislative Day-March 6<sup>th</sup> was the date chosen for Legislative Day this year. There was great participation this year with about 50 Directors and staff in attendance. The group met at the Illinois Building at the State Fairgrounds and got information for the day and the packets to hand out. Chairman Beyers expressed a big "Thank You" to the ISWCDEA and AISWCD staff for putting together such a great day! It was reported that Gina Bean did a great job of calling each District's Chairman to ask them if they would be attending Legislative Day. Some were not happy with the short notice of the date to hold Legislative Day. This was determined by the schedule of the Legislature and there is only so much notice that can be given about what their schedule is. It worked out well to meet up at Cheddars afterward and go over the comments from the day and try and plan better for those things next year.
- FSA Offices-If FSA offices consolidate or close this could greatly impact SWCD's and NRCS. There has been talk of putting together a Task Force to look at this to come up with how to react when this happens. Tessa Chadwick commented that NRCS is planning on work as usual till the budget is decided.

Legislative Action Group Update-Lonnie and Rich met with some groups like townships, schools, etc. to get added in with them on the Prevailing Wage Bill.

Chairman Beyers commented on the plan to try and get the State Farm Bureau to support resolutions for Soil and Water Conservation Districts. It seems there is support at the local level with Farm Bureau to support us. Tom reported on last year's resolutions and what had happened with each one of them.

FY 2013 State Budget Update-Mike Hoffmann covered that earlier in his report to the Legislative Committee.

NACD Annual Meeting in San Antonio, Texas-Tom reported on the NACD Annual Meeting in Texas.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

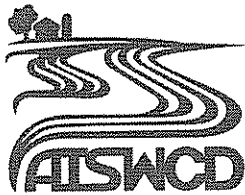
Current Legislation Update-Chairman Beyers went over each of the bills that Rich had included in his recent report. **A motion was made by Terry Davis and seconded by Terry Bogner for the AISWCD.**

Minutes taken by: Sue Davis, AC Christian County SWCD

Approved by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



association of illinois

**SOIL &  
WATER**

conservation districts

## **Planning Focus Area Committee Agenda**

**Van Bitner, Chairman**

June 10, 2013 @ 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

**Emerald Room - Northfield Inn & Suites, Springfield, Illinois**

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1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approve Agenda
4. Approve March '13 FAC Meeting Minutes (Pages 50-51)
5. Partner Reports
  - a. IDOA
6. Old Business
  - a. FY 2013 Annual Meeting Update
  - b. Farm Family Application-possible revision
7. New Business
  - a. FY 2014 AISWCD Annual Meeting Date/Location/Expenses
8. Adjournment

**Planning Focus Committee  
March Quarterly Board  
March 12, 2013  
Northfield Inn & Suites – Springfield, Illinois**

**Present:**

Van Bitner, Chairman  
Terry Davis  
David McCormick  
Darrell Roegge  
Dale Shumaker  
Roger Johnson  
Steve Fulling  
Cindy Moon, District Employee, Recorder  
Colleen Bogner, Auxiliary  
Marie Bunting, Auxiliary  
Jody Christiansen, NRCS  
Mike Rahe, IDOA  
Sherry Finn, AISWCD  
Kelly Thompson, AISWCD  
Betty Buckert, District Employee  
Kara Downin, District Employee (Arrived Late)

**Absent:**

Judy Beyers, Auxiliary  
Tom Beyers  
Tess Ferguson, Auxiliary  
Marty McManus, IDOA

**Van Bitner called the meeting to order at 9:10 am**

**Approval of Agenda**

**A motion was made by Darrell Roegge, seconded by Terry Davis, to approve the agenda. MCVV**

**Meeting Minutes from June '12 FAC meeting**

**A motion was made by David McCormick, seconded by Roger Johnson, to approve the minutes of the December 2012 FAC meeting minutes. MCVV**

**A motion was made by Roger Johnson, seconded by Cindy Moon to approve the January 23, 2013 taskforce meeting minutes. MCVV**

**Partner Reports**

**IDOA** – Mike Rahe gave the report. Mike reported districts recently received their 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> quarterly operations and PFC money. With the exception of Edgar and McHenry-Lake SWCDS, everyone received \$13,385 for a second quarter operations allocation. Edgar County had a typo in the first quarter allocation so theirs was reduced by \$360. McHenry-Lake was different because of their consolidation for two more years. A second voucher included \$11,368 for 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter that needs to be transferred into operations. The balance of the second voucher was the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter cost-share allocation for FY13.

**NRCS** – Jody Christiansen reported on the Soil Health Campaign. They would like to do a short presentation on this at Summer Conference if there is an opportunity.

**Taskforce Update**

**Logo Selection** – Logo selection has been made by the taskforce. There will be two pictures, one of the “dustbowl days” and one present day. The theme is: “Can You Hear Us Now?”

**Award Applications** – Letters and copies of the award applications were sent to all Chairmen. Award applications are also on the AISWCD website. The George McKibben Scholarship applications also went out to the four State Universities. Van Bitner impressed upon those at the committee meeting they would like to have many entries, especially for the Farm Family Award.

**Registrations** – April 15<sup>th</sup> will be the first day anyone can make reservations for the Northfield Inn for Summer Conference. Room rate will be \$70.00 plus tax, with suites being at a higher rate.

**Meals** – Sherry Finn ask for input on menu ideas. The committee deferred final decision to be made by Sherry and Kelly.

**Sessions** – Sherry Finn expressed her appreciation to ISWCDEA, IAAP, IDOA, and NRCS, for stepping up and getting session information to her on time.

**Sponsorships/Auction** – Jim Sacia has a conflict this year and will not be able to auctioneer at the auction. Ron Sanert from Menard County is willing to do the auction, but would prefer not to be the only one. Sherry reported that Rich was going to asked John Sullivan also, and if anyone else knew of anyone who might be interested, to let her know. There are no sponsorships to date.

**Partners, Parliamentarian, Sponsor Invites** – Sherry Finn reported the partners have been invited, sponsor invitations have been sent out. The Parliamentarian is set.

**Prizes/Contests** – There will be a terrarium contest at Summer Conference. Entry blanks will go out by May 1. The terrariums will be used as table decorations as was done at the Winnebago SWCD Annual Meeting that Sherry Finn attended. Each terrarium will have a price tag of \$30.00. The terrariums will also be judged by judges not connected with AISWCD, and the top three will be sold at the auction. If there are twenty entries, prizes will be awarded for first, second, and third; ten to fifteen entries, first and second prize; and under ten entries, only one prize. The money from the terrariums that are sold on the tables for \$30.00 will go towards prizes for ticket entry drawing from sessions.

#### **Old Business**

Van Bitner reported the Executive Committee had asked him to again discuss the lack of Farm Family entries, and what we could do about it. He said the idea had been brought up that perhaps there could be more than one winner. He was not sure we could make that change this year, but perhaps it would be something to think about for next year. Kelly Thompson also reported she is working on getting a \$1,000 grant, of which \$500 would be distributed to the winner, and \$500 distributed to the sponsoring SWCD, which might entice more participation. Van asked the committee to think about how we can get more participation.

**Motion by Roger Johnson to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 10:10 am.**

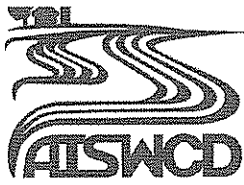
**Minutes taken and transcribed by:**

**Cindy Moon**

Approved by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



**Urban & Community Conservation  
Focus Area Committee Agenda  
Jerry Snodgrass & Gerard Fabrizius, Chairmen**

June 10, 2013 @ 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Onyx Room - Northfield Inn & Suites, Springfield, Illinois

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1. Call to order
2. Roll Call
3. Approve Agenda
4. Approve March '13 FAC Meeting Minutes (Pages 53-54)
5. Old Business
  - a. Green Infrastructure Grant Program Update-Rich Nichols
  - b. IUM Update-Kelly Thompson
  - c. CPESC Training/Tour-2013 Annual Meeting Update
  - d. 2013 Legislative Tour-Peoria, IL
6. New Business
7. Adjournment



**AISWCD Quarterly Board Meeting  
Urban & Community Conservation Committee  
Tuesday, March 12, 2013**

**Present:** Kara Downin, ISWCDEA Co-Chair  
Lonnie Wilson, AISWCD President  
Jerry Snodgrass, Co-Chairperson  
Gerard Fabrizius, Co-Chairperson  
Kelly Thompson, AISWCD  
Don Beisiegel  
Daniel Doedtman  
Joe Bybee, IDOA  
Gina Bean, AISWCD

**Absent:** Megan Andrews, RC Kendall Co SWCD  
Lee Bunting  
Chris Davis, IEPA  
Julie Gillmore, Minute Recorder  
Renea Hildebrandt, IDNR  
Don McCallon, NRCS

**Call to Order:** Co-Chairperson Fabrizius called the meeting to order at 10:47 a.m.

**Agenda: Don Beisiegel motioned to approve the agenda.**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> by: Dan Doedtman      Carried: Yes**

**Approval of Minutes: Don Beisiegel motioned to approve the December 10, 2012 Minutes as presented.**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> by: Dan Doedtman      Carried: Yes**

**Partner Reports**

**IDOA:** Joe Bybee reported that contracted Stream Specialists are up and running. SSRP and Special Project monies will come from the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter allocation and application deadlines for both programs in May 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Old Business**

**Green Infrastructure Grant Program Update:** Kelly Thompson updated that Jim Nelson is working on this program. The program is currently on hold due to the weather.

**Illinois Urban Manual (IUM) Update:** Kelly Thompson updated that several standards are currently being updated and expect to be completed in May. The field manual inspection guide is planned to be updated by September. An urban newsletter is being planned. They also plan to host a booth at the AISWCD Annual Meeting. The website is being re-organized.

**NACD Webinars Update:** The third Thursday of every month will feature an urban and community related topics webinar. The March webinar is set for 9 a.m. on the 21<sup>st</sup> and will feature the IUM with several IL SWCDs and AISWCD staff presenting. All webinars will be about an hour long.

**Urban Non-Point Source Pollution Workshop Update:** no update was given

## **New Business**

**CPESC Training/AISWCD Annual Meeting:** Joe Bybee reported that a rough agenda is set for training at Summer Conference. On Monday, the training will start with a tour from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. that will feature 2-3 urban project sites. The group will return for lunch and then resume training for 1-4 p.m. for presentations featuring the ILR10 permits/IEPA representative, de-watering practices, wetland standards, SWCD county presentations, and temporary/permanent seedings. This training is expected to earn participants 5 credits.

**Peoria County SWCD Legislative Luncheon and Conservation Tour:** Kelly Thompson reported that this luncheon/tour will showcase work completed at Caterpillar. Lunch will follow at Wildlife Prairie Park and feature locally grown food that is donated by ISA. The event will be August 19 or 23, 2013. Plans are being made for a similar event to be located within LUC 16 in 2014.

Discussion was held regarding inviting IDOA Director Flider and IDOA BLWR Division head, Laura Sova, to this event, future events and board meetings. Further discussion was held regarding meeting with Ms. Sova and forming a better relationship with AISWCD.

**Adjournment: Don Beisiegel motioned to adjourn the meeting at 11:28 a.m.**

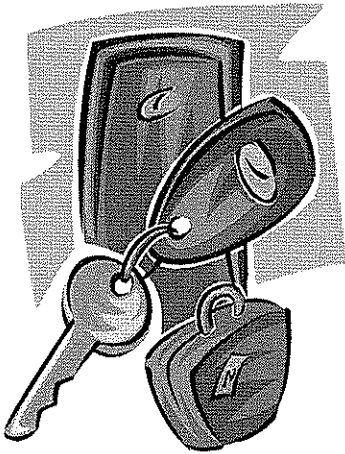
**2<sup>nd</sup> by: Dan Doedtman      Carried: Yes**

**Minutes taken by Kara Downin, RC, Knox County and ISWCDEA Co-Chair.**

**Approved by:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**



# Room Reservations

This form must be returned  
(FAX: 217-744-3420) or ([sherry.finn@aiswcd.org](mailto:sherry.finn@aiswcd.org)) to the AISWCD  
Office on or before

**Tuesday, June 4, 2013.**

in order to secure your room at the Northfield Inn for the  
June Quarterly Board Meeting.

You may also contact, Sherry Finn at 217-744-3414 to make  
reservations.

**\*Please check the date/s you will be staying\***

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Committee: \_\_\_\_\_

Sunday, June 9<sup>th</sup>: \_\_\_\_\_ Monday June 10<sup>th</sup>: \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*\*Note: only meal expenses at the Northfield Inn are  
covered by the AISWCD.**

\*\*\*\*\*

# Illinois Soil & Water Conservation District Employee Association

AC Co-Chair – Betty Buckert  
RC Co-Chair – Kara Downin

AC Co-Vice Chair – Sondra Baker  
RC Co-Vice Chair – Keith Livesay

Secretary – Meghan Polocek  
Treasurer – Sharon Matson

**Region 1  
Representatives**  
Kara Downin  
Sharon Matson  
Shannon Pence  
Sherry Huffstutler

**Region 2  
Representatives**  
Sondra Baker  
Spring Duffy  
Thad Eshleman  
Vicki Heath

**Region 3  
Representatives**  
Jane Brangenberg  
Betty Buckert  
Cindy Moon  
Abbie Sperry

**Region 4  
Representatives**  
Tara Hopkins  
Stephen Miller  
Renee Weitekamp  
Cindy Poppenhager

**Region 5  
Representatives**  
Keith Livesay  
Meghan Polacek  
Jodi Hawkins  
Carla Barnes

This spring has found the ISWCDEA very busy with meetings and events! Big thanks to our committee members for volunteering for each of our current activities. We have certainly started off busier than in past years. Also, the ISWCDEA now has a full slate of representatives from every region. We welcome Jodi Hawkins and Carla Barnes from Region 5!

Our current involvements include;

1. **Field Office of the Future** - Sequestration has put a damper on this activity.
2. **Legislative Day** – We partnered with the AISWCD to host Legislative Day (our 3<sup>rd</sup> year) on 3/6/13. We purchased green ribbon pins and created a flier to handout to legislators.
3. **NRCS Memorandum of Understanding** - The employees are represented by current and past ISWCDEA Co-Chairs and one representative from northeast IL. Sequestration has also put a damper on this activity.
4. **Summer Conference** – We have planned several interesting and informative sessions for employees and directors. All sessions will be open for anyone so please make plans to attend. We are also fundraising with IL SWCD License Plate Frames and a 50/50 raffle to support our annual scholarship and Winter Training.
5. **Farm Progress Show** – We are partnering with the AISWCD, to participate in the Ag Partners Conservation Tent space; educating young people and adults about the importance of agriculture and conservation. The show is August 27-29, 2013.
6. **Employee Handbook** – We are in the beginning stages of creating a monthly 'duty' calendar on our website with links to pertinent documents, regularly used guides, cheat sheets, and helpful hints to help employees across the state. We are still investigating options, but hope this can be posted on DARTS and the ISWCDEA website.
7. **Scholarship** – Annually, we offer a \$500 scholarship to assist with professional development of current employees and/or dependants for assistance with tuition, registration, books, etc. for courses in the next fall semester. Applications are found on the ISWCDEA website.
8. **Conservation Catchall** – We contribute an article to the monthly newsletter.

Overall, we are excited to see great employee involvement in the ISWCDEA and the sub-committees. We were also thrilled to have great employee AND director involvement in Legislative Day! Kudos to IL SWCDs! Keep up the good work! So much more can be accomplished when we work together!

Respectfully submitted,



Betty Buckert, AC Co-Chair & Kara Downin, RC Co-Chair

**AISWCD QUARTERLY BOARD**  
***Illinois Department of Agriculture Report***  
June 11, 2013

**New Regional Representative-Region 5**

The Bureau is pleased to announce the addition of Gary Albers to our staff, filling the Regional Representative position previously held by Angela K. in Region 5. Gary began his new position on April 1. His office is located at the Henry White Farm in St. Clair County. The address is Gary Albers, Illinois Department of Agriculture, 4747 Centerville Road, Millstadt, Illinois 62260. Gary currently doesn't have an office phone; however, he can be contacted at: [gary.albers@illinois.gov](mailto:gary.albers@illinois.gov). Gary was born and raised in Clinton County on his family's farm west of Germantown with 10 additional siblings. His brother still farms the family farm today. Most recently, Gary worked for the Illinois Department of Employment Security (unemployment office) in Centralia and Marion before coming to the Department of Agriculture. Please help us welcome Gary as the new member of our conservation team.

**FY 13 Funding for SWCDs**

The Department has been seeking the release of fourth quarter operations and cost-share allocations from the Governor's Office of Management and Budget. We'll be sure to keep Districts posted.

**FY 13 Partners for Conservation Program Fund Balances**

The outstanding balance for: FY 11 CPP is \$148,619; FY 12 CPP is \$367,921 and FY 13 CPP is \$467,891. In accordance with the Illinois Grant Funds Recovery Act, the deadline to fully spend those funds is October 11, 2013 for the FY 11 CPP Funds (with an approved contract extension), December 28, 2013 for the FY 12 CPP Funds and November 8, 2014 for the FY 13 CPP Funds.

**Cover Crops**

The interest in the use of cover crops for environmental protection, soil health benefits, etc. is rapidly increasing. Also, numerous meetings are being held around the state on the value of cover crops to farming operations and those sessions have been very well attended. The Department has been working with Districts and NRCS on developing Department sponsored cover crop demonstrations this coming fall along interstate highways and is also coordinating with a number of Districts on SWCD sponsored sites for research and field day activities.

**2013 Soil Conservation and Tillage Transect Survey**

This year's survey will mark the 14<sup>th</sup> survey that Districts and the Bureau have cooperated on to record tillage systems used to plant crops and the amount of soil erosion occurring on farmland. To prepare for conducting the survey, the Bureau provided refresher training on the survey process to district staff at the December Training Session, regional meetings, and small group sessions. As in the past, once the Bureau receives the data recorded by the districts they will process it and provide districts with reports that summarize the survey results.

**Energy Projects**

The IDOA is negotiating with Rock Island Clean Line and Enbridge Pipeline on an Agricultural Impact Mitigation Agreement (AIMA) regarding a major electric transmission line that would cross Illinois and on a new crude oil pipeline that would extend from Pontiac to Griffith, Indiana, respectively.

**Farmland Conversion Annual Report**

The IDOA has released the Farmland Conversion Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2012. State agencies named in the Illinois Farmland Preservation Act must annually report the number of farmland acres that are purchased and/or converted as a result of state agency action. In Fiscal Year 2012, 14,304 acres were affected by state agency projects.

**Mined Land Reclamation Program**

The IDOA collected and analyzed crop samples on 87 fields reclaimed at surface coal mines around Illinois for proof of pre-mining productivity in 2012. In April, the IDNR-Office of Mines and Minerals determined that 79.3 % of the fields tested met the designated target yields in spite of the severe drought that plagued Illinois last year. Mine operators must meet the yield standards for surety bond release.

## **USDA- IL FSA Conservation and Environmental Programs Division**

### **General Signup 45**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will conduct a four-week general sign-up for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), beginning May 20 and ending on June 14.

Producers that are accepted in the sign-up can receive cost-share assistance to plant long-term, resource-conserving covers and receive an annual rental payment for the length of the contract (10-15 years). Producers also are encouraged to look into CRP's other enrollment opportunities offered on a continuous, non-competitive, sign-up basis and that often provide additional financial assistance. Continuous sign-up dates will be announced at a later date.