

AISWCD QUARTERLY BOARD
Illinois Department of Agriculture Report
March 12, 2013

New IDOA General Counsel

Raymond Watson has joined the Department as the new General Counsel. Ray comes from Springfield and has previously worked in the legal departments at the Illinois Attorney General's Office and the Secretary of State's Office. While at the Illinois Attorney General's Office, he assisted the Department with many grain elevator cases.

FY 13 Funding for SWCDs

The Department has been seeking the release of second quarter operations and cost-share allocations from the Governor's Office of Management and Budget. The Bureau has all the necessary paperwork ready for delivery to the Department's Accounting Section once we receive approval. We'll be sure to keep Districts posted.

FY 13 Partners for Conservation Program Fund Balances

The outstanding balance for: FY 11 CPP is \$159,755; FY 12 CPP is \$391,313 and FY 13 CPP is \$159,256. In accordance with the Illinois Grant Funds Recovery Act, the deadline to fully spend those funds is April 12, 2013 for the FY 11 CPP Funds, December 28, 2013 for the FY 12 CPP Funds and November 8, 2014 for the FY 13 CPP Funds.

FY 10 Bond Funds

A good, make that a great news story is that every cent of FY 10 Bond Funds has been spent on conservation practices; no dollars were returned to the Department. This illustrates excellent program management on the part of Districts and great communication/cooperation between the Department's Regional Representatives and District Employees. Let's collectively accomplish the same thing with FY 11, 12 and 13 CPP funds.

FY13 Streambank Stabilization and Restoration Cost-Share Funding Available

FY13 cost-share funds are available for streambank stabilization projects. The deadline for submitting SSRP applications for FY13 funds will be **May 1st, 2013**. The stream specialists are available to provide technical assistance needed for site inspections, evaluation and project cost estimates. Contact the specialist assigned to your district to schedule appointments for assistance. The Bureau will notify SWCDs with projects that are approved for cost-share funding by **June 15, 2013**.

FY 14 PFC Cost-Share Program Guidelines and Application Forms

The BLWR is in the process of reviewing Partners for Conservation guidelines and forms for the next fiscal year. SWCDs may send any suggestions, comments or ideas for improvement of the FY 14 program in writing to your Regional Representative by **May 15th, 2013**. As always, we thank you for your input into improving District programs.

Cover Crops

The interest in the use of cover crops for environmental protection, soil health benefits, etc. is skyrocketing. At the Soil and Water Conservation Society cover crop conference in late January at Decatur, almost 290 individuals attended. 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 District sponsored sites for research and field day activities. Further, the American Farmland Trust has applied for a USDA Conservation Innovation Grant to help foster the adoption of cover crops. There is definitely a lot of momentum building for cover crop utilization.

Illinois Conservation Partnership Annual Report

Thanks to those Districts who have contributed information for the FY 11 annual report. This important report will soon be placed on DARTS and the Department's web page. It's currently available in hard copy form and can be obtained by contacting Dee Clark or Mike Rahe. Work is underway on compiling the FY 12 report.

March 2013 NRCS Report

Uncertain Times—The federal government continues to be in uncertain circumstances as Congress failed to put legislation in place to avoid sequestration. Preliminary estimates indicate NRCS will see a cut of about 5%. The impact on Illinois is yet to be determined. We think we can avoid furloughs but that has not been confirmed. As we have indicated before, all producers with a need or interest in programs can still contact NRCS and sit down to discuss their conservation issues and needs. All NRCS spending remains tight. We will continue to hold back on all non-critical purchases until further notice.

Food and Ag Council – The chair of the FAC has rotated to NRCS. We will be meeting this month and one of the main topics of discussion will be the communication process for proposed office closure and/or reorganization proposals. We anticipate several agencies will have to explore options as a reaction to declining budgets.

Program Activity--There continues to be activity and even new sign-up opportunities with **EQIP**—the new **Green House Gas** effort offers new funding opportunities for both cover crops and nutrient management. The **National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI)** will be moving forward; we have three 303d watersheds in Illinois that have a special chance to make important water quality changes and get targeted funds. Those watersheds are Douglas Creek, Lake Vermilion, and Bon-Pas/Crooked Creek. The **Driftless Initiative** has been formally approved for Illinois. **CSP (Security)** activities have been suspended and a new **CSP** sign-up has been indefinitely delayed. We are moving ahead with FY13 batching periods for EQIP obligations, and even though we have authority for GRP & **WRP**, we have yet to receive funds to support new contracts because of the uncertainty of the sequester. A **CRP** sign-up has been announced for May, but again, funds to support the sign-up, have not yet been allocated. Until funds are received, NRCS will not be able to consider contributions agreements with the Districts. Reductions in funds will undoubtedly have an impact on what we can offer and deliver our clients for conservation programs.

Hiring Freeze—Due to looming budget issues and potential cuts, NHQ issued a hiring freeze that impacted Illinois NRCS's ability to fill a number of positions. That hard freeze has been lifted and we can now consider filling key positions, but on a very limited basis. We were allowed to announce the State Soil Scientist position, which had been vacant since last September. Area 5's ASTC, Angela Biggs, is still serving on a detail as the Acting STC for Hawaii. State Biologist, Gene Barickman, is acting ASTC in Area 5.

Conservation Delivery and Streamlining Initiative (CDSI) – CDSI implementation originally scheduled for October 1, 2013, has been delayed until October of 2014.

Practice Scenarios and Payment Schedules—Now ALL practices are standardized for FY 13 and beyond. All this information is up to date and posted on the IL NRCS website.

590 Nutrient Management Standard –The NRCS Nutrient Management Conservation Practice Standard (590) has been finalized. NRCS led Work groups have updated guidance for 590, the Phosphorus Index spreadsheet tool, the Nitrogen Assessment tool, and Guidelines for Adaptive Management in Illinois. Training on use of the new standard to NRCS technical staff, FO Teams, SWCD and partner staff, as well as Technical Service Providers (TSPs) is being prepared.

Soil Health—Our interest and use of Soil Health as a priority issue continues to expand. A **Soil Health Division** in National Headquarters is being formed and soil health concepts and practices will be integrated into all aspects of NRCS programs, priorities, and agency objectives. We will promote soil health ideals and practices, especially the use of cover crops. Anything the Districts can do to support this effort and make it a priority in their counties will be good for all.

Certainty/Value added/Market Based Conservation – NRCS continues to move forward with efforts to fill conservation gaps in technical and financial assistance by exploring these options.

SWCD of Illinois Insurance Plan Administrator's Report to AISWCD February 2013

COBRA – As of February 28, 2013, we have 2 participants in COBRA; one who is a former employee and one is a director's spouse. A third participant, a former employee, went off COBRA after needing it for just one month. One COBRA election notice was mailed to a departing employee. No COBRA initial notices were mailed.

Administration – Administration included processing remaining January 2013 invoices and processing 2 COBRA invoices. The CMS March billing reflected 159 participants in our health care plan. The participants include 128 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, removed one departing employee, and had one employee transfer between districts. I also sent an email to all districts asking them to remember to forward information to me, rather than Marion County, as some districts were still doing. I also enrolled in online banking in order to track deposits sent to Springfield and to have access to the bank statements.

Financials – Income for February was \$5,367.76 with expenses totaling \$139,520.98 resulting in a net loss of \$134,153.22. The checkbook balance in the insurance account as of February 28, 2013 was \$872,661.01 with \$2,351.91 cents in accounts receivable. This amount was due to a deposit being lost in the mail and I billed the districts affected. Billings have been received and paid as follows for March:

CMS	\$ 130,608.00
The Standard	\$ 4,389.54

Thank you,
Melissa Cauble
Montgomery County SWCD

SWCD OF ILLINOIS INSURANCE
Balance Sheet Prev Year Comparison
As of February 28, 2013

	<u>Feb 28, 13</u>	<u>Feb 28, 12</u>	<u>\$ Change</u>	<u>% Change</u>
ASSETS				
Current Assets				
Checking/Savings				
AISWCD - Illinois Funds	<u>872,661.01</u>	<u>898,492.21</u>	<u>-25,831.20</u>	<u>-2.88%</u>
Total Checking/Savings	<u>872,661.01</u>	<u>898,492.21</u>	<u>-25,831.20</u>	<u>-2.88%</u>
Accounts Receivable				
Accounts Receivable	<u>2,351.91</u>	<u>0.25</u>	<u>2,351.66</u>	<u>940,664.0%</u>
Total Accounts Receivable	<u>2,351.91</u>	<u>0.25</u>	<u>2,351.66</u>	<u>940,664.0%</u>
Other Current Assets				
Undeposited Funds	<u>103.35</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>103.35</u>	<u>100.0%</u>
Total Other Current Assets	<u>103.35</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>103.35</u>	<u>100.0%</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>875,116.27</u>	<u>898,492.46</u>	<u>-23,376.19</u>	<u>-2.6%</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>875,116.27</u>	<u>898,492.46</u>	<u>-23,376.19</u>	<u>-2.6%</u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY				
Equity				
Retained Earnings	<u>388,243.12</u>	<u>367,869.41</u>	<u>20,373.71</u>	<u>5.54%</u>
Net Income	<u>486,873.15</u>	<u>530,623.05</u>	<u>-43,749.90</u>	<u>-8.25%</u>
Total Equity	<u>875,116.27</u>	<u>898,492.46</u>	<u>-23,376.19</u>	<u>-2.6%</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u>875,116.27</u>	<u>898,492.46</u>	<u>-23,376.19</u>	<u>-2.6%</u>

SWCD OF ILLINOIS INSURANCE
Profit & Loss Budget Performance
February 2013

	Feb 13	Budget	Jul '12 - Feb 13	YTD Budget	Annual Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense					
Income					
AISWCD Life-LTD Premiums	706.93	0.00	2,935.65	318.00	425.00
COBRA Paid Premiums	1,687.08	1,687.00	14,340.18	14,340.00	21,088.00
Employee Paid Own Premiums	2,283.00	0.00	221,559.00	262,100.00	350,510.00
Interest	34.87	55.00	305.09	135.00	300.00
State Allocation	0.00	0.00	1,376,755.00	1,376,755.00	1,376,755.00
STD Insurance	655.98	0.00	19,604.07	18,788.00	25,586.00
Voluntary Life Insurance	0.00	0.00	4,819.70	7,304.00	9,788.00
Total Income	5,367.76	1,742.00	1,640,318.69	1,679,740.00	1,784,452.00
Expense					
Administrator Wages Reimbursed	0.00	0.00	6,947.98	6,792.00	13,584.00
Liability Insurance	0.00	0.00	518.33	1,665.00	1,665.00
LTD Premiums	757.45	779.00	6,138.53	6,232.00	9,348.00
Miscellaneous	0.00	100.00	368.86	800.00	1,200.00
Monthly Premium Health	135,131.00	144,422.00	1,118,018.00	1,154,549.00	1,732,237.00
Monthly Premium Life	486.75	570.00	4,349.91	4,560.00	6,840.00
Monthly Premium Voluntary Life	884.63	828.00	6,471.55	5,624.00	9,936.00
Postage	0.00	30.00	89.62	235.00	350.00
STD Insurance Premiums	2,261.15	2,266.00	18,409.76	18,128.00	27,192.00
Wrk Comp - Liability Insurance	0.00	0.00	-9,867.00	0.00	1,244.00
Yearly CPA Audit	0.00	0.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
Total Expense	139,520.98	148,995.00	1,153,445.54	1,201,585.00	1,805,596.00
Net Ordinary Income	-134,153.22	-147,253.00	486,873.15	478,155.00	-21,144.00
Net Income	-134,153.22	-147,253.00	486,873.15	478,155.00	-21,144.00

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03/11/13
Cash Basis

Association of IL Soil and Water Cons. Dist. Foundation
AISWCD Foundation Balance Sheet
As of February 28, 2013

	<u>Feb 28, 13</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
1020 · CHECKING-BOS FOUNDATION	19,008.30
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>45,116.98</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>45,116.98</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>45,116.98</u></u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Equity	
3210 · TEMP RESTRICTED NET ASSETS	4,925.19
3220 · NET ASSETS RESTRICTED	25,545.74
3900 · Retained Earnings	15,135.05
Net Income	-489.00
Total Equity	<u>45,116.98</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u><u>45,116.98</u></u>

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Accrual Basis

Association of IL Soil and Water Cons. Dist. Foundation
AISWCD Foundation Profit & Loss
February 2013

	<u>Feb 13</u>
Income	
4410 · INTEREST INCOME	<u>5.20</u>
Total Income	<u>5.20</u>
Expense	<u>0.00</u>
Net Income	<u><u>5.20</u></u>

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Cash Basis

Association of IL Soil and Water Conservation Districts
AISWCD Balance Sheet
As of February 28, 2013

	Feb 28, 13
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
1 · CASH-BOS GENERAL FUND	33,962.65
2 · CASH- BOS ENVIROTHON	17,989.32
3 · CASH-BOS GRANTS	126,943.59
4 · CASH-WSB BUILDING	9,286.06
Total Checking/Savings	188,181.62
Total Current Assets	188,181.62
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
TOTAL ASSETS	460,810.47
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabilities	
2100 · Payroll Liabilities	
2105 · FWT, FICA, Medicare Payable	6,940.86
2110 · STATE W/HOLDING PAYABLE	1,462.44
2115 · FUTA PAYABLE	488.47
2120 · SUTA PAYABLE	313.67
2125 · VOLUNTARY LIFE INSURANCE	145.36
Total 2100 · Payroll Liabilities	9,350.80
Total Other Current Liabilities	9,350.80
Total Current Liabilities	9,350.80
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	9,812.75
Equity	
3200 · RETAINED EARNINGS - PRIOR	142,907.23
3900 · Retained Earnings	441,424.94
Net Income	-133,334.45
Total Equity	450,997.72
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	460,810.47

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Cash Basis

Association of IL Soil and Water Conservation Districts
AISWCD Profit & Loss Standard
February 2013

	Feb 13
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
4000 · DUES	
4001 · MEMBERSHIP DUES	361.23
Total 4000 · DUES	361.23
4100 · GRANT REVENUE	
4112 · IGIG-1113	9,737.50
4111 · IUM-Urban Manual Update-3191103	14,748.14
Total 4100 · GRANT REVENUE	24,485.64
4300 · ENVIROTHON REVENUE	909.90
4400 · Miscellaneous REVENUE	
4425 · II Headwaters RC&D Council Inc	5.59
4422 · Pheasants Forever	31.01
4420 · NACD Revenue	1,000.00
4412 · ISWCDEA	385.14
4402 · MISCELLANEOUS REVENUE	51.17
Total 4400 · Miscellaneous REVENUE	1,472.91
4500 · INTEREST INCOME	
4501 · ENVIROTHON INTEREST	5.14
4502 · GRANTS INTEREST	32.19
4503 · GENERAL FUND INTEREST	16.03
4504 · BUILDING INTEREST	0.87
Total 4500 · INTEREST INCOME	54.23
Total Income	27,283.91
Expense	
5000 · PAYROLL	
5001 · SALARIES	26,669.78
5002 · FICA/MEDICARE	2,149.43
5003 · FUTA EXPENSE	152.20
5004 · SUTA EXPENSE	154.52
5000 · PAYROLL - Other	1,427.25
Total 5000 · PAYROLL	30,553.18
5100 · EMPLOYEE HEALTH INS.	
5112 · Empl HealthIns (Off. Asst.)	1,988.15
5111 · Empl Health Ins (CRS)	11,204.43
5107 · Empl HealthIns (Project Cood)	1,077.35
5106 · EMPLOYEE HEALTH INS (Adm Asst)	1,068.45
5101 · EMPLOY HEALTH INS.(ExecDir)	124.29
Total 5100 · EMPLOYEE HEALTH INS.	15,462.67
5200 · INSURANCE	
5205 · Package Policy	5.00
Total 5200 · INSURANCE	5.00
5300 · CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	
5301 · Public Affairs Coordinator	2,000.00
Total 5300 · CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	2,000.00
5400 · PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	
5405 · Other	112.50
Total 5400 · PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	112.50
5500 · TRAVEL	
5502 · EMPLOYEE TRAVEL	163.13
Total 5500 · TRAVEL	163.13
5600 · ANNUAL MEETING	
5607 · ANNUAL CONF-OTHER	25.58
Total 5600 · ANNUAL MEETING	25.58

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Cash Basis

Association of IL Soil and Water Conservation Districts
AISWCD Profit & Loss Standard
February 2013

	Feb 13
6100 · ENVIROTHON EXPENSE	
6116 · Envirothon Miscellaneous Exp	710.00
6115 · Envirothon Coordinator	635.00
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Total 6100 · ENVIROTHON EXPENSE	1,345.00
6200 · OFFICE NEEDS	
6201 · OFFICE SUPPLIES	185.16
6202 · EQUIPMENT	140.38
6204 · COPIER LEASE	168.00
6205 · POSTAGE/DELIVERY	412.00
	<hr/>
Total 6200 · OFFICE NEEDS	905.54
6300 · BUILDING EXPENSES	
6302 · UTILITIES	69.40
6303 · SNOW REMOVAL/LAWN CARE	65.00
6306 · PROPANE	145.00
6313 · TELEPHONE	178.28
	<hr/>
Total 6300 · BUILDING EXPENSES	457.68
6500 · GRANTS EXPENSE	
6550 · IUM Coordinator Expense	
6550-3 · Thompson-IUM Coordinator	792.92
6550-1 · Conferences	325.49
	<hr/>
Total 6550 · IUM Coordinator Expense	1,118.41
6505 · 3191103-IL Urban Manual Update	
6505-5 · Subcontractor-Standards Updates	3,222.40
6505-2 · IUM Sub Contract-St. John	3,360.00
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Total 6505 · 3191103-IL Urban Manual Update	6,582.40
6502 · CREP	
6502-01 · 3191202-CREP RS Acctl	1,040.76
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Total 6502 · CREP	1,040.76
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Total 6500 · GRANTS EXPENSE	8,741.57
6700 · INTERNET/WEBSITE	
6702 · INTERNET SERVICE	79.95
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Total 6700 · INTERNET/WEBSITE	79.95
6800 · NACD EXPENSES	
6802 · NACD Auction	21.09
6801 · NACD MEETINGS & ACTIVITIES	2,380.55
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Total 6800 · NACD EXPENSES	2,401.64
6900 · OTHER	
6935 · IL River Conf-Conservation Tour	24.79
6933 · SWCDs Annual Mtg Fees/Travel	76.38
6901 · BANK CHARGES	32.99
6902 · MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSE	878.17
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Total 6900 · OTHER	1,012.33
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Total Expense	63,265.77
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Net Ordinary Income	-35,981.86
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Net Income	-35,981.86

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Cash Basis

Association of IL Soil and Water Conservation Districts

Balance Sheet Prev Year Comparison

As of February 28, 2013

	Feb 28, 13	Feb 29, 12	\$ Change	% Change
ASSETS				
Current Assets				
Checking/Savings				
1 - CASH-BOS GENERAL FUND	33,962.65	156,135.16	-122,172.51	-78.3%
2 - CASH- BOS ENVIROTHON	17,989.32	25,251.26	-7,261.94	-28.8%
3 - CASH-BOS GRANTS	126,943.59	113,170.30	13,773.29	12.2%
4 - CASH-WSB BUILDING	9,286.06	10,034.72	-748.66	-7.5%
5 FUNDS HELD BY FCS	0.00	99,063.73	-99,063.73	-100.0%
Total Checking/Savings	188,181.62	403,655.17	-215,473.55	-53.4%
Total Current Assets	188,181.62	403,655.17	-215,473.55	-53.4%
Fixed Assets				
1401 - FIXED ASSETS				
1550 - ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION	-43,290.02	-43,290.02	0.00	0.0%
1500 - FURNITURE, FIXTURES & EQUIP	31,228.15	31,228.15	0.00	0.0%
1450 - BUILDING	273,416.19	273,416.19	0.00	0.0%
1475 - Vehicles	11,274.53	11,274.53	0.00	0.0%
Total 1401 - FIXED ASSETS	272,628.85	272,628.85	0.00	0.0%
Total Fixed Assets	272,628.85	272,628.85	0.00	0.0%
TOTAL ASSETS	460,810.47	676,284.02	-215,473.55	-31.9%
LIABILITIES & EQUITY				
Liabilities				
Current Liabilities				
Other Current Liabilities				
2100 - Payroll Liabilities				
2105 - FWT, FICA, Medicare Payable	6,940.86	0.00	6,940.86	100.0%
2110 - STATE WITHOLDING PAYABLE	1,462.44	73.84	1,388.60	1,880.6%
2115 - FUTA PAYABLE	488.47	240.16	248.31	103.4%
2120 - SUTA PAYABLE	313.67	86.06	227.61	264.5%
2125 - VOLUNTARY LIFE INSURANCE	145.36	145.36	0.00	0.0%
Total 2100 - Payroll Liabilities	9,350.80	545.42	8,805.38	1,614.4%
Total Other Current Liabilities	9,350.80	545.42	8,805.38	1,614.4%
Total Current Liabilities	9,350.80	545.42	8,805.38	1,614.4%
Long Term Liabilities				
2550 - N/P-National Bank of Petersburg	11.30	676.09	-664.79	-98.3%
2600 - BOND PAYABLE TO FCS	450.65	99,042.07	-98,591.42	-99.5%
Total Long Term Liabilities	461.95	99,718.16	-99,256.21	-99.5%
Total Liabilities	9,812.75	100,263.58	-90,450.83	-90.2%
Equity				
3200 - RETAINED EARNINGS - PRIOR	142,907.23	142,907.23	0.00	0.0%
3900 - Retained Earnings	441,424.94	352,092.60	89,332.34	25.4%
Net Income	-133,334.45	81,020.61	-214,355.06	-264.6%
Total Equity	450,997.72	576,020.44	-125,022.72	-21.7%
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	460,810.47	676,284.02	-215,473.55	-31.9%

CHART OF ACCOUNTS	FY 2013 PROPOSED AISWCD BUDGET		BUDGET
	INCOME		
4000	DUES		
4001	MEMBERSHIP DUES (\$48,164 X 97 3/4 X 3% @ 100%)		\$141,240.93
4100	GRANT REVENUE		
4111	IUM COORDINATOR GRANT -3191103		\$154,606.67
4115	319 GRANT-PARTNERS FOR CONSERVATON		\$410,550.00
4200	ANNUAL MEETING REVENUE		
4201	ANNUAL MEETING REGISTRATION		\$25,000.00
4202	ANNUAL MEETING AUCTION		\$5,000.00
4300	ENVIROTHON REVENUE		
4301	TEAM REGISTRATION FEES		\$2,400.00
4302	CANON GRANTS		
4303	VOLUNTEER/PRESENTER MEALS		\$100.00
4304	SPONSORSHIPS		\$10,000.00
4400	OTHER REVENUE		
4402	MISCELLANEOUS REVENUE (Insurance Premium)		\$40,231.00
4403	EARTH STEWARDSHIP DAY REVENUE-(pass through)		\$2,500.00
4500	INTEREST INCOME		
4501	ENVIROTHON INTEREST		\$300.00
4502	GRANTS INTEREST		\$500.00
4503	INTEREST INCOME-OTHER (GENERAL FUND)		\$2,000.00
4504	BUILDING INTEREST		\$100.00
	TOTAL BUDGETED REVENUE		\$794,528.60

CHART OF ACCOUNTS		BUDGET
	EXPENSES	
5000	PAYROLL	
5001	SALARIES (GROSS)	\$135,537.64
5002	FICA/MEDICARE EXPENSE	\$15,000.00
5003	FUTA EXPENSE	\$525.00
5004	SUTA EXPENSE	\$320.00
5100	EMPLOYEE HEALTH INS.	
5101	EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE (Exec. Dir.)	\$497.16
5105	EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE (ADMIN. ASSISTANT)	\$6,054.32
5107	EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE (PROGRAM COORDINATOR)	\$6,500.00
5110	EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE (OFFICE ASSISTANT)	\$4,500.00
5200	INSURANCE	
5202	INSURANCE-DIRECTORS & OFFICERS	\$2,000.00
5205	INSURANCE-PACKAGE POLICIES	\$40,231.00
5300	CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	
5301	PUBLIC AFFAIRS COORDINATOR	\$24,000.00
5400	PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	
5401	REGULAR AUDIT	\$4,650.00
5500	TRAVEL	
5501	EMPLOYEE MILEAGE	\$250.00
5502	EMPLOYEE TRAVEL	\$1,000.00
5600	ANNUAL MEETING	
5603	ANNUAL CONF-AWARDS	\$1,800.00
5604	ANNUAL CONF-MEALS	\$25,200.00
5605	ANNUAL CONF-TRAVEL & LODGING	\$1,500.00
5606	ANNUAL CONF-AUCTION	\$1,500.00
5700	QUARTERLY BOARD MEETINGS	
5701	BOARD MEETINGS-LODGING	\$500.00
5702	BOARD MEETINGS-MEALS	\$2,000.00
5703	BOARD MEETINGS-TRAVEL	\$375.00
5800	COMMITTEE MEETINGS	
5801	COMMITTEE EXP-OTHER	\$100.00
5802	COMMITTEE EXP-TRAVEL	\$100.00
5803	COMMITTEE EXP-MEALS	\$50.00
5804	COMMITTEE EXP-LODGING	\$50.00
5900	LEGISLATIVE	
5904	LEGISLATIVE DAY	\$3,500.00

CHART OF ACCOUNTS		BUDGET
6000	AISWCD OFFICER(S) EXPENSE	
6001	AISWCD OFFICER(S) TRAVEL (President-\$2500; VP-\$1500)	\$4,000.00
6002	AISWCD OFFICER(S) MILEAGE	\$0.00
6100	ENVIROTHON EXPENSE	
6102	NATIONAL EXPENSES	\$3,000.00
6105	STATE ENVIROTHON COMPETITION	\$6,500.00
6115	ENVIROTHON CO-COORDINATORS SALARY/EXPENSES	\$8,200.00
6200	OFFICE NEEDS	
6201	OFFICE SUPPLIES	\$3,000.00
6202	EQUIPMENT	\$2,500.00
6203	PRINTING	\$500.00
6204	COPIER LEASE	\$1,008.00
6205	POSTAGE/DELIVERY	\$2,000.00
6300	BUILDING EXPENSES	
6303	SNOW REMOVAL/LAWN CARE	\$1,100.00
6305	ELECTRIC	\$1,100.00
6306	PROPANE	\$1,800.00
6307	MAINTENANCE ACCOUNT	\$300.00
6310	SECURITY SYSTEM	\$500.00
6311	GARBAGE	\$219.00
6313	TELEPHONE	\$2,000.00
6400	MEMBERSHIPS/REGISTRATIONS	
6401	MEMBERSHIPS/REGISTRATIONS	\$1,800.00
6500	GRANTS EXPENSE	
6550	IUM UPDATE GRANT-3191103	\$102,156.67
6560	319 GRANT-PARTNERS IN CONSERVATION	\$357,800.00
6600	VEHICLE	
6602	VEHICLE MAINTENANCE	\$1,250.00
6603	VEHICLE INSURANCE	\$730.00
6604	VEHICLE STICKER/REGISTRATION	\$99.00
6700	INTERNET/WEBSITE	
6701	WEBSITE MAINTENANCE	\$1,800.00
6702	INTERNET SERVICE	\$1,000.00
6800	NACD EXPENSES	
6801	NACD MEETINGS & ACTIVITIES	\$8,000.00
6900	OTHER EXPENSES	
6902	MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSE	\$300.00
6903	ANNUAL REPORT FILING FEES	\$300.00
6905	EARTH STEWARDSHIP DAY EXPENSES	\$2,500.00
	TOTAL BUDGETED EXPENSES	\$793,202.79
	BUDGETED NET INCOME	\$1,325.81



"Improve the economic well-being of agriculture and enrich the quality of farm family life."

2013 State Legislative Priorities

The Illinois Farm Bureau has established the following as State Legislative Priorities for the 2013 General Assembly legislative session:

- Seek passage of a State Budget that provides maintenance levels of funding for core agricultural programs within the current tax structure. Due to the current economic downturn combined with the current state budget deficit, a no-growth program budget must be adhered to under the current revenue stream.
- Support legislation maintain the integrity of the farmland assessment law and its ability to value farmland in an appropriate way for agriculture.
- Support legislation to establish regulations for hydraulic fracturing and horizontal drilling operations that provide appropriate safeguards for the protection of land and water resources.
- Seek legislation requiring that any decision to permanently post a road at a reduced weight limit or to permanently close a road require the unanimous approval of the road commissioner, county engineer and a majority of the elected members of the board associated with the road district.
- Seek legislation to establish statewide standards for commercial wind energy conversion systems that provide adequate protection of private property rights and allow for reasonable development of commercial wind energy conversion system projects.
- Oppose legislation eliminating the overtime exemption for agricultural employers or implementing an inflationary increase in the minimum wage.



ILLINOIS AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION®

1701 Towanda Avenue • P.O. Box 2901 • Bloomington, Illinois • 61702-2901

BACKGROUND ON MAJOR ISSUES

Seek passage of a State Budget that provides maintenance levels of funding for core agricultural programs within the current tax structure. Due to the current economic downturn combined with the current state budget deficits, a no-growth program budget must be adhered to under the current revenue stream.

Illinois agriculture will most likely be faced with a proposed state budget in which tough decisions will have to be made in order to balance spending within the current revenue stream of the state. IFB feels that within the current revenue/tax stream, maintaining funding for key Illinois Department of Agriculture programs is important. Programs like meat and poultry inspection, warehouse and grain dealer oversight, weights and measures, pesticide use, food and agricultural products inspection, animal health, and many other programs that provide direct support to production agriculture like Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Extension, county fairs, and others should be kept as whole as possible.

Support legislation maintaining the integrity of the farmland assessment law and its ability to value farmland in an appropriate way for agriculture.

The integrity of the farmland assessment law in Illinois is extremely important to the success of farmers in our state. An amendment to the farmland assessment law has been proposed that is intended to bring farmland certified values in line with the original intent of the law and allow the statutory formula to be more effective in determining the income potential of all farmland. We will support this legislation to assure that the law continues to work appropriately for all of agriculture and that its integrity cannot be questioned.

Support legislation to establish regulations for hydraulic fracturing and horizontal drilling operations that provide appropriate safeguards for the protection of land and water resources.

Policy implemented by IFB's delegates supports reasonable regulation of hydraulic fracturing and horizontal drilling operations to protect natural resources. Negotiations with interested stakeholders on establishing this regulatory structure have been occurring for some time. IFB will continue to work with stakeholders to develop a regulatory structure that protects land and water resources, property rights of our members, and allows for the successful development of hydraulic fracturing in Illinois.

Seek legislation requiring that any decision to permanently post a road at a reduced weight limit or to permanently close a road requires the unanimous approval of the road commissioner, county engineer and a majority of the elected members of the board associated with the road district.

Decisions by road commissioners to permanently post a road at a reduced weight limit or close a road have little or no oversight from other government officials. However, these

36. SOIL CONSERVATION

Soil erosion is a threat to the long-term productivity of agriculture. Farmers and landowners should do all they can feasibly do to implement soil conservation practices.

We support ..

1. Soil conservation programs using education, voluntary compliance, financial incentives and other non-punitive means to encourage compliance. Farmers should not be penalized for a "first offense" failure to meet residue requirements if they have made a good faith effort to follow their conservation plan, or for failure to obtain mandated residue cover following crop failure. Any penalties for subsequent violations should not exceed the farm program benefits on the tract number in violation. The provision of cost sharing by government agencies must be a prerequisite to any compliance program.
2. Increasing funding and technical support for various state and federal programs to assist farmers, landowners, and drainage districts in controlling erosion and runoff. Available resources should be targeted to those areas where greatest problems exist and programs are being implemented.
3. Inclusion of conservation practices that address soil erosion, sediment control, and water quality concerns brought on by community development in the Natural Resources Conservation Services' (NRCS) National Handbook of Conservation Practices.
4. Unrestricted technical and educational services of NRCS to municipalities, other local governments, and non-governmental entities within funding parameters.
5. Legislation that would protect landowners from liability resulting from the malfunction of terraces and structures constructed according to NRCS guidelines.
6. Amendment of the election process currently used by Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) to allow SWCD directors to be elected with the stipulation that the election be structured so that no more than one director may be elected from any township in any election.
7. Maintaining county SWCDs under the administration of the Illinois Department of Agriculture and funding for SWCD staff at compensation levels comparable to that of state employees.
8. Increased funding for SWCDs to implement voluntary streambank stabilization programs.
9. Research on the concept of economic benefits of green payments to farmers.
10. A pilot program whose concepts would include guaranteeing farmers a payment for implementing new conservation practices. This could be initiated through a public/private partnership program.
11. Including funding for technical assistance in the overall costs to implement government programs addressing natural resource or environmental issues.
12. Adequate state and federal funding for updating soil surveys.
13. Allowing an exemption to the NRCS manual for Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) money to be used for streambank stabilization practices prior to the adjacent land's expiration in a Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contract or a Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) contract.
14. Amending the Prevailing Wage Act so it does not apply to state funded conservation incentive payments.

We oppose the use of state or federal conservation funds for conservation practices on land that is in the process of being developed. The SWCD and/or the NRCS shall require monies to be returned if land is converted to non-production agriculture use in ten years or less after receipt of state or federal funds. This may include land that has been platted or sold to a developer.

Local governments and developers are encouraged to utilize all practical means to control non-farm soil erosion.

2013 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

December 2012

decisions can have significant negative impacts for farmers located along these roads or that have farms along these roads. In order to assure that the impact of permanent decisions on roads receive appropriate consideration, more than just the road commissioner should be involved in the decision making process. IFB will seek legislation that requires that the road commissioner, county engineer, and a majority of the elected members of the associated road district board agree with a permanent road posting at a reduced weight or the permanent closure of a road.

Seek legislation to establish statewide standards for commercial wind energy conversion systems that provide adequate protection of private property rights and allow for reasonable development of commercial wind energy conversion system projects.

Wind farms throughout Illinois are being built with varying standards for the repair of impacts to agricultural land and vary decommissioning standards, if any such provisions even exist. In some instances, the county governments and the landowners involved in such projects have negotiated their own agreements for siting, building and the decommissioning of wind turbines. The result has been widely varying standards that may or may not provide needed protections for landowners.

In an effort to remedy this situation, IFB will seek legislation that would provide statewide standards for the building and decommissioning of commercial wind energy conversion system projects. These statewide standards will address the issues of mitigating the impact to agricultural land from construction activities and standards and funding for the decommissioning of wind energy conversion systems once they have reached the end of their useful life.

Oppose legislation eliminating the overtime exemption for agricultural employers or implementing an inflationary increase in the minimum wage.

Discussions regarding increasing the minimum wage rate in Illinois have been ongoing. Legislation increasing the minimum wage that surfaced during the previous General Assembly session also eliminated the exemption from paying overtime for agricultural employers. IFB policy opposes the elimination of this overtime exemption and opposes an increase in the minimum wage unless that increase is considered non-inflationary. IFB will continue to work with a coalition of other interested groups to oppose any legislation that establishes and increase in Illinois' minimum wage rate that is inflation and oppose any removal of the overtime exemption for agricultural employers.

Activities for the Quarter Ending March, 2013

Submitted by Richard Nichols

Executive Director

- Dec 10 - 11 – I attended the Quarterly Board meeting
- Dec 11 – In the afternoon I participated in a conference call with NRCS to coordinate the CREP Resource Specialist program with NRCS
- Dec 12 – Had Conference call on MOU between AISWCD, IDNR and NRCS for use of office space for CRSs
- Dec 13 – Developed and sent talking points to AISWCD board members who are located in John Sullivan's, Gary Forby's, Michael Frerichs' or Mike Jacobs' Senatorial District. They will be contacting SWCDs in those Senatorial Districts and asking the SWCDs to contact their Senator to request support for HB5315.
- Dec 17 – Attended and chaired 2013 Farm Progress Show Planning meeting in Decatur
- Dec 18 – Attended CRS training at IEPA
- Jan 9 – Attended Ag Legislative Roundtable in Bloomington with Lonnie and Tom. Also attended Agricultural Environmental Alliance meeting in the afternoon.
- Jan 11 – Lonnie and I attended the ILICA convention at the President Abraham Lincoln Hotel in Springfield.
- Jan 15 – Met with Ray Herman to discuss the Forestry Committee and forestry related issues
- Jan 17 – Attended Richland County SWCD Annual Meeting
- Jan 25 – Attended Champaign County SWCD Annual Meeting
- Jan 30 – Attended Menard County Special Meeting for landowners interested in allowing hunting on their land.
- Jan 31 – Attended the Post Development Storm Water Runoff Standards Recommendation Committee meeting at IEPA.
- Feb 19 – Lonnie and I met with FSA and NRCS to discuss FSA staff reductions and changes to FSA office hours. We returned to the office in time to participate in the Annual Meeting Taskforce conference call.
- Feb 20 – I participated in a conference call to discuss updating the 1998 Cooperative Working agreement between NRCS, SWCDs, RC&Ds and IDOA. The document is in need of updating to reflect changes that have been made to the structure and capabilities of the organizations involved.
- Feb 21 – Sherry and I attended the Livingston County SWCD Annual Meeting.
- Feb 22 – I met with IEPA to discuss the Fracking Bill and to learn what role SWCDs might play if the bill passes.
- Feb 25 – Lonnie and I met with IDOA to discuss the open Meetings Act Training and to coordinate with director training that IDOA is conducting. I left that meeting a bit early to attend an Ag Support Group meeting that we have been participating in over the past year and a half. The group has published a booklet for legislators about agriculture and the important contribution the industry makes to the state's economy. As soon as that meeting was over I went to IEPA to meet with Lonnie and others from IEPA, NRCS and IDOA to discuss the Certainty program concept.
- Feb 27 – Lonnie, Kelly and I met with representatives from Illinois Stewardship Alliance to discuss the idea of a summer legislative tour and luncheon. It looks like the idea has merit and we will be working on setting up that event over the next few months. Lonnie and I then went to the Ramada hotel to meet with representatives from the School Board, Township Officials, Park Districts and Land Improvement Contractors Associations who would like to see changes into the Prevailing Wage Act.

Feb 28 – Sherry, Lonnie and I attended a reception for Jim Todd at the Menard County SWCD office. Jim is retiring from the SWCD board so will no longer be active in many of the activities of the AISWCD though he will still serve in the capacity of immediate Past President. I also attended the Marion County SWCD Annual meeting in the evening.

March 4 – I participated in a brief conference call with several of the Council 16 SWCDs to discuss HB2243. We learned that the bill is officially dead on Feb 7th.

March 6 – I participated in the SWCD Legislative Day. Attendees were divided into 10 groups and given a list of Senators or Representatives to visit. Our group went to every office on the list but we were only able to find one Senator to talk with and that was very briefly. Still we gave the information to the staffers and I'm sure the legislators will get it.

March 11 – We have meetings scheduled with House and Senate staff and with Representative Mautino to discuss funding for SWCDs.

In addition to the above, I have written and edited three Conservation Catchalls and three legislative newsletters, written a successful grant proposal for the AISWCD Forestry Committee, written several letters to various individuals to encourage release of SWCD funds and responded to numerous emails and phone calls.

I have also spent a good deal of time since February 18th tracking legislation and reporting on the current status of bills that may have some effect on SWCDs.

Two resolutions have seen some action this period.

- **Resolution 2010-2** Establish Illinois Envirothon Scholarship Program
Status: Ongoing. Sponsors are being sought for the Envirothon and to provide funding for scholarships. A letter has been drafted to send to Monsanto requesting consideration for sponsoring the Illinois Envirothon.
- **Resolution 2011-1** Prevailing Wage Act Resolution
Status: Ongoing: Meetings have been held with other statewide groups to try to form a coalition to support changes to the Prevailing Wage Act. Representative David Reis is sponsoring HB0987 that will exempt agricultural lands from the PWA requirements. Senator Pamela Althoff is sponsoring SB1669 that will allow governmental bodies to pass a resolution exempting them from paying prevailing wages on public works projects. We were not in the original bill but have requested that the SWCDs be added and as of last word, it appears that may happen.



association of illinois

SOIL & WATER

conservation districts

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March 11, 2013

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Administrative Assistant
SHERRY FINN

Program Coordinator
KELLY THOMPSON

Office Assistant
GINA BEAN

CREP Resource Specialists
SHERYL PHILIPS
Peoria SWCD

STEPHANIE FITZSIMONS
LaSalle SWCD

RAY GEROFF
Sangamon SWCD

JEREMY PRUDEN
Brown SWCD

TIM ROYER
McDonough SWCD

JAKE VANCIL
Schuyler SWCD

mission

"to represent and empower
illinois' swcds"

To: AISWCD Executive Board
From: Rich Nichols, Executive Director and Lonnie Wilson, President
Re: **Conservation Tour and Legislative Luncheon**

The Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts is partnering with Illinois Stewardship Alliance (ISA) to plan a Conservation Tour and Legislative Luncheon to educate northeastern Illinois legislators on conservation and SWCDs.

The event will take place during the week of **August 19 – 23, 2013 in Peoria County**, tentatively at Wild Life Prairie Park in Edwards, IL. This event is in the preliminary stage of planning. The AISWCD is beginning to form a planning committee and is seeking interested parties to join the committee.

Tentative Planning Committee:

- AISWCD Executive Board Members
- Peoria County SWCD
- Illinois Stewardship Alliance
- Illinois Farm Bureau
- Caterpillar

The event logistics are still being discussed amongst AISWCD and ISA. The agenda for the event is still being developed.

Tentative Agenda:

- 10:00 am Conservation Tour begins
- 12:00 pm Lunch is served
- 12:15 pm Presentations begin (3-5 presentations at 5-10 minutes in length)
- 1:30 pm Lunch concludes
- 1:30 pm Meet and greet
- 2:30 pm Event concludes

We are looking forward to working with you and planning this event. Please contact Kelly Thompson by email, Kelly.Thompson@aiswcd.org or phone (217) 744-3414 if you are interested in participating on the planning committee. Thank you in advance for your participation.

Sincerely,

Richard W. Nichols, Executive Director

Lonnie Wilson, President

Tom Byers and I attended the NACD North Central Region (NC) board meeting on December 3rd and 4th. I would like to share with you a summary of the presentations and the actions at this meeting. Below is the dot points,

- The board agreed to offer two scholarships within the region for \$400 for an additional Director to attend a NACD event for the first time.
- NACD's new website is up and running.
- We reviewed the 2012 NACD Government Affairs Priorities with Earl Garber, NACD's President Elect and Laura Wood, Director of Legislative Affairs. Items that I feel are interested to IL. Are below. After the full board meeting when the final document is approved, we will share their 2013 priorities.
 - National Forest managed harvest,
 - Conservation compliance tied to crop insurance,
 - Additional targeted CRP acres above current cap,
 - Cover crops for healthy soils,
 - Programs to manage severe weather events, like droughts,
 - Programs to address the impacts of weather created by climate change,
 - Added Feral hogs to the land management issues for managed lands.
- We reviewed the following resolutions from NC and voted,
 - Beginning Farmer Definition (Minnesota) – I voted to support with added definition.
 - This is an attempt to get USDA to define and tighten the definition to limit possible abuses.
 - EQIP Contract Approval (Minnesota) – I voted to not support this
 - The intent for this is to set a deadline every year so better planning can be done at Districts, but the issue is if we set a deadline, the funding may not be available for NRCS causing full fiscal years to be skipped without a budget.
 - EQIP in new Farm Bill (Minnesota) – I voted to support
 - Lobby to keep EQIP in the next Farm Bill.
 - NRCS Conservation Plans (Michigan) – I voted to support
 - Apparently other states do not share or review / approve the Conservation Plans with their SWCD Board. I feel this is very important and support an NRCS national policy for this to occur everywhere.
 - Separation of Duties Directive (Wisconsin) – I voted not to support.
 - This resolution seeks to eliminate the Separation of Duties Directive set by NRCS. I feel this allows a non bias review to be done and limits the exposure of the local DC to the possible ridicule from upset land owners.
 - We just received the full pad of proposed resolution for the upcoming NACD Annual Board Meeting. Tom and I are reviewing these now and our plan is to prioritize the ones that effect our state and attend the committee meetings where these will be heard to determine the intent and if we will support them when the full board votes.
- We heard NRCS and EPA regional reports. The main thing I picked up on is Illinois is not getting the funding that other states are getting for watershed programs and BMP projects. One amount that sticks in my mind we only received about 5.5% of some of our neighboring states. I plan to find out the reasons for this and see what we can do to get more of these funds into Illinois.
- The regional representative for the employees association (NCDEA), Sandy Stratman gave a very interesting report on each states activities. I have to say, I am always proud of our

employees and their efforts in the offices, but the outside efforts to support programs like Toys for Tots, Lion Club charities and of course the support for state association projects like the Farm Progress Show displays, Training and tours at conferences and the many task-forces we ask them to help with really stands out on the NC regions report. Thank you!

- The NC Regional Chairman and the Vice Chairman Elections occurred at this meeting.
 - The new Chairman is Mark Zabel from Minnesota. Mark is a good friend of mine and I feel he will lead our NC efforts very well.
 - The new Vice Chairman is Lonnie Wilson from, yes, Illinois.
- We have two national candidates for office from the NC Region.
 - Kent Stuckey is running for Secretary/Treasurer. Kent is a dairy farmer and row crop producer from Ohio. He has a lot of background in accounting and administration which I feel makes him the best candidate for this position.
 - Jerry Snodgrass is running for Second Vice President. Jerry is from Henry County here in Illinois and is currently serving as our NC Regional Executive Board Member. Jerry is also the Area 1 Vice President here in Illinois. Jerry is very involved currently and is the Chairman of the Natural Resource Policy Committee for NACD which sets most of the national policies that effect our conservation efforts. Jerry also is a member of the Farm Bill Task-force. I feel Jerry will be a great addition to the NACD leadership team.

NACD

North Central since December meeting:

- Watershed Dollars, Illinois is lagging behind neighbors Illinois – \$4.4m where neighboring states are \$30+m. We need to address getting more of these dollars into Illinois. Ivan Dozer and I have discussed thoughts on increasing. Some watersheds are being revitalized already.
- Reviewed and voted to support / no support of resolutions
- Conference call with NACD leadership and Laura Wood Peterson to set NACD Legislative Priorities for 2013
- Discussion on Conservation Compliance from 2011. Should we revive it?
- Farm Bill, Budget and sequestration updates
- Working to improve the nomination process and election process. Requires By law changes.
- Monthly board conference calls – share Certainty progress from MN and IL. By law edits. Appointments to committees.

NACD

- Election of new officers – See sheet
- Presented Illinois process for Field Office of the Future with South Dakota, Washington, and Jason Weller, Acting Chief NRCS in San Antonio
- Received Directors Education Award in San Antonio
- Moved many new resolutions forward and revised / sunset many others at Annual meeting. - NACD Website
- Illinois attended Communications Committee as a member, I am the vice Chairman for 2012-2014 – See report
- I am pushing for a program much like the contribution agreement with NRCS with FSA since they are struggling fiscally. NACD is meeting with USDA representatives and discussion this.
- Sequestration looks to cut +/- \$220m from NRCS
- NACD Urban and Community Conservation Webinar – 11am march 21st – AISWCD will present the history and the process used to update the standards within the manual. Kane-DuPage, Kendall and North Cook Soil and Water Conservation Districts will also present information on how the manual is used by an SWCD, highlights of a particular standard and the IUM's connection to the Indiana EPA's NPDES permit.
- Survey on 4Rs – Ask about the current work your area is doing with nutrient stewardship. I can forward the link if you want to participate.
- 25+ presentation ready reports on NACD website that can be used.
- Eresource weekly news brief / Eresource Magazine. Do you receive these?

NACD Officers

Earl Garber, President is a licensed crop consultant and rice, soybean and hay producer from Louisiana. He started his involvement in conservation as a Soil Scientist, Soil Conservationist and District Conservationist with the USDA. He has been active on the Acadia Soil and Water Conservation District board of supervisors, in Southwestern Louisiana, since 1981. Garber recently served as the President of the Louisiana Association of Conservation Districts. He also held the position of Louisiana Board Member for the National Association of Conservation Districts before being newly elected to the Second Vice President Executive position.

Garber has his own farming operation which includes 550 acres of rice, soybeans, grain sorghum, timber and commercial hay production. Earl also provides daily service to area producers as a Louisiana licensed crop consultant and field services manager for G&H Seed Co. Garber and his wife, Janis Landry, live and farm in the Northwestern portion of Acadia parish, Louisiana.

Lee McDaniel, First Vice President, operates his family's Indian Spring Farm in Darlington, Maryland. He has served on the Harford Soil Conservation District Board since 1997, elected as Chairman since 2005. He has served two terms as President of the Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts from 2005 to 2009. He has been involved on the national level since 2005, serving on the Board of Directors and the Executive Board. McDaniel is a graduate of Cornell University, with a BS in Agricultural Economics.

McDaniel and his wife Connie, a retired school teacher, grow corn, soybeans and alfalfa hay on the 850 acre farming operation. Conservation practices on the farm include cover crops, no-till, grassed waterways, diversions, spring developments, strip cropping, stream bank protection, grassed and wooded buffers and stream crossings.

Brent Van Dyke, Second Vice President, is a retired Agriculture Education teacher and FFA advisor from Hobbs, New Mexico. He has worked for the U.S. State Department/ U.S.A.I.D. for more than 15 years as a contract advisor for agriculture projects in Eastern Europe and Eurasia.

Van Dyke has served as Vice President of New Mexico Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts since 2006; prior to that, he served as Chairman of Lea County Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors. Van Dyke was elected as NACD Southwest Region Executive Board Representative in 2011.

A life-long resident of New Mexico, Van Dyke and his wife Kim farm irrigated alfalfa and coastal Bermuda hay in Lea County, New Mexico, and cotton in Plains, Texas. They also run a commercial

and registered cattle operation in Southeastern New Mexico.

Dick Went, Secretary/Treasurer, is a retired school teacher of 29 years, as well as a retired remodeling contractor. He is actively involved in conservation at the local, state and national levels.

Went has served as President of the Rhode Island Association of Conservation Districts since 2008. He is also a member of the Northern Rhode Island Conservation District; the Rhode Island Forest Conservators Organization; the Rhode Island Farm, Forest, and Open Space Committee; the Rhode Island Agricultural Partnership; and the Rhode Island Raised Livestock Association.

Went and his wife, Deborah, currently reside on an American Tree Farm in Foster, RI, where they engage in a number of NRCS conservation practices, including timber stand Improvement, the creation of forest trails and landings, and wildlife habitat cuts. They are also active participants in the Conservation Stewardship Program.

Gene Schmidt, Past President, is a farmer from Hanna, Indiana with extensive experience working for conservation districts. He has been a member of the LaPorte County Soil and Water Conservation District board since 1983, and has served in numerous leadership positions in the Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, including as president in 1995 and 1996. In addition to his local- and state-level district work, Schmidt has been active at the national level since the mid-1990s. He served as a member of NACD's executive board and most recently as the chair of the Stewardship and Education Committee.

Schmidt and his wife, Diane, farm 1,500 acres of seed corn, seed beans, and wheat and operate a retail seed business. Conservation practices in use on Schmidt's farm include minimum till, no-till, cover crops, stream buffers and windbreaks.

NACD
Communications Committee Update

- Website:

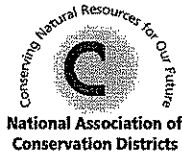
- Development and launch of a new NACD website
 - New professional look and feel
 - Includes "Content Management System"
 - Allowing for more efficient, timely updates to site
 - Members-only site
 - Including officer travel calendar
 - Ability to post internal documents for Board-use only (coming soon...)
 - From August-November 2012, NACD's website had more than 32,700 visitors.
 - Continued to maintain the Joint Forestry Team website in partnership with NRCS, Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters.

- Social Media & other web-based communications:

- New "Real Magnet" email marketing system
 - Professional, custom-designed email templates
 - Tracking function to measure recipient engagement
 - Dynamic distribution lists
- New branding of weekly e-newsletter, "the NACD eResource" (formerly known as "eNotes")
 - New professional design
 - Ability to easily incorporate photos with articles
- Facebook
 - Over 520 "likes" on the NACD Facebook page as of 12/28/12
- Flickr and Vimeo pages (linked the NACD website) to showcase district pictures and videos.
- Monthly CEO Video Reports were posted on NACD's Vimeo site and promoted on the website and facebook page.

- Publications:

- Quarterly magazine, *the Resource* (with distribution of approx. 20,000)
 - Developed new "Every Acre Counts" column, highlighting urban and/or non-traditional conservation projects.
- Monthly issues of *Forestry Notes*



National Association of Conservation Districts

October 29, 2012

Re: District Official Training Program Recognition

Dear

Congratulations! Your state is among 16 states that NACD will recognize for having a District Official Training Program. Thank you for your states participation in this new program for NACD. Training Districts Officials on their roles and responsibilities are crucial to the success of the individuals as well as the local Conservation District, State Associations, and the National Association of Conservation Districts.

NACD would like to recognize your state's accomplishment at our Annual Meeting in San Antonio, Texas. The meeting will be held January 27 – 30, 2013 at the Marriott Rivercenter Hotel. In order for your state to receive the proper recognition, please complete the enclosed form indicating the individual (either you or a designee) who will be attending the annual meeting and accepting the award on behalf of your state.

The award presentation will occur during the Leadership Luncheon on Monday, January 28, 2013. You and a guest will be invited to sit in a special section reserved for award recipients. Beth Mason (our staff liaison) will meet your award recipient for a quick rehearsal at the stage in Salons G/H/I/J/K/L/M at 10:45 a.m., just after Monday's General Session.

Please respond by December 14, 2012. Your prompt attention will ensure that the award proceedings run as smoothly as possible. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Beth Mason at (317) 782-0600 or send an email to beth-mason@nacdnet.org.

Thanks again for the support your state gives to their national association. See you in soon in San Antonio!

Sincerely,

Gene Schmidt, NACD President

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