



association of illinois
**SOIL &
WATER**
conservation districts

December Quarterly Boards
December 9, 2014
Board of Directors
Northfield Inn, Springfield, IL

DOT POINT HIGHLIGHTS

ATTENDANCE:

4 Officers

3 Area VPs (Glen Bowers was absent, Steve Fulling was there to report on his behalf)

11 LUC Representatives (Barb Klinger, Lonnie Wilson, Darrell Roegge, Roger Johnson, and Tom Anderson were absent with no alternates present; Jerry Snodgrass was there to report on LUC 2's behalf)

3 AISWCD staff, 2 ISWCDEA, and 2 AISWCD Auxiliary Members were present.

AGENDA:

Approved with an update by Myron Kirby to add the topic of the Client Gateway to New Business.

OLD BUSINESS:

Dues Update - Gina Bean reported that she and the auditor have not been able to find a spread sheet on Sherry Finn's computer of who has paid and how much they have paid. Since Districts have not been paid since the last time Sherry reported, Gina gave those numbers. 8 Districts have not paid any dues, 4 Districts have only paid the second installment and 2 Districts have paid a portion of their dues. Gina did report that Boone County had paid \$764.55 since Sherry's last report, but until a spreadsheet can be made, Gina does not know which category they are in.

604B Grant Update - Matt Hanauer introduced himself to the group and let them know he is there to help Districts implement watershed grants. He has also helped write a RCPP grant for American Farmland Trust and they are working closely with Districts. The IUM is finished but he is continuing to work on basic standard updates. There was discussion from the group and Kelly Thompson reminded everyone that the 604B grant is for outreach and education.

CREP Grant Update - Gina Bean reported that all six positions are full. Sarah Still replaced Jeremy Pruden in Brown county starting on November 1, 2014. All Housing Districts are up to date on Housing District payments.

2015 State Budget Update - Myron Kirby reported that the budget is unknown with the new Governor. Kelly Thompson has been contact with the transition team.

Policy Book Update - Tom Beyers reported that the policy book has been compiled from the last 10 years' resolutions. Rich Nichols has made recommendations and the book will be looked at during the March Quarterly Board meeting.



DOT POINT HIGHLIGHTS: Page 2

MOU Update - Sondra Baker reported on two MOU's. The first is the one the ISWCDEA was involved in with NRCS. She reported that Ivan Dozier has talked with them and he will be looking into a template in the next couple of months.

The second MOU is the one with FFA concerning the Envirothon. It has been signed by both parties. In this agreement FFA will still pay the \$100 for FFA teams to compete at the state competition. They will also be represented on the taskforce, add AISWCD and SWCDs to media outlets they use, and actively look for sponsorships. The Envirothon coordinators will contact FFA as soon as LUC competitions are done so FFA can check if students are current members. After the state competition, all scores will be sent to FFA.

NEW BUSINESS:

AISWCD Staff Changes - Myron Kirby reported that Kelly Thompson is the new Executive Director and Gina Bean is the new Administrative Coordinator. He updated the Board on the missing funds situation that took place in September.

Results of Exit Audit - Myron Kirby reported that the auditors were able to find \$8241.00 in missing funds in the form of cash.

2015 Farm Progress Show - Kelly Thompson reported that planning has started for the 2015 Farm Progress Show. The event will take place on September 1, 2, 3 in Decatur, IL.

NACD North Central Region - Tom Beyers reported that Lonnie Wilson will be stepping down as Chairman of the NACD North Central Region. The national event for Envirothon will be taking place in Missouri in 2015.

NACD Annual Meeting

Scholarship Recipient - Kelly Thompson reported that Myron Kirby was the NACD scholarship recipient. He will take \$400.00 off of his registration costs.

NACD Auction Item - Jerry Snodgrass reported that he has a contact in his hometown that will sell the Association a model DEF15 Rifle for \$400.00. It will be engraved with the date, location and NACD logo.

The board made suggestion and passed Myron Kirby as the Delegate and Tom Beyers as the Alternate.

Waters of the US (WOTUS) - Kelly Thompson reported that since comments from Districts were on both sides, the Association could not take a position.

Illinois Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy - Myron Kirby let the group know that the Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy is out for comment until January 24, 2015. It is located on the AISWCD website and Kelly Thompson has sent an email with links.



DOT POINT HIGHLIGHTS: Page 3

Client Gateway - The Board passed a motion for AISWCD and NRCS to enter into an agreement concerning the new Client Gateway and for AISWCD to be the administrator. Myron Kirby reported that Ivan Dozier had met with him, Kelly Thompson, Sondra Baker, and Keith Livesay and informed them that there is a national initiative in updating NRCS's entire computer system. This will allow landowners to electronically let offices know if there is a problem on their land. Through this system, they will also be able to set up appointments, sign contracts, and certify for payments electronically. This is an opportunity for Districts to earn more money.

PARTNER REPORTS:

IDOA (Steve Chard), NRCS (Ivan Dozier), IEPA (Dick Breckenridge), ISWCDEA (Sondra Baker and Keith Livesay), Envirothon (Sondra Baker), SWCD Insurance (Melissa Cauble), AISWCD Executive Director (Kelly Thompson).

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Executive (Myron Kirby) - Districts not in good standing will not be able to participate in the new agreement with NRCS concerning the Client Gateway. AISWCD will be administering the agreement and in order for Districts to participate they must be in good standing.

Forestry (Terry Davis) - The new state forester is Tom Wilson. He is the type of person the committee was hoping would get hired when they wrote their letter asking for a new state forester to be selected soon.

Auxiliary (Marie Bunting) - Debbie Ruff from Livingston County SWCD was on the team that reviewed this year's NACD Local Heroes, Your Hardworking Pollinators. During the NACD Annual Meeting, the auxiliary will be taking a tour where the Mardi Gras floats are made. Marie Bunting passed around tickets and cash bags for anyone who wanted to sign up for the quilt raffle.

Illinois Rivers Coordinating Council (Lee Bunting) - The Council has met twice since the June Quarterly Board meetings. They are looking to raise the amount from \$0.10/pound to harvest Asian Carp out of the River. They are also looking at ways to keep the Asian Carp out of Lake Michigan. If anyone would like to join the Illinois, Mississippi, Wabash, or Ohio Rivers Coordinating Councils talk to Kelly Thompson or Lee Bunting.

Communications (Steve Stierwalt) - The committee understands that Legislative Day is a way for everyone to spread the word to Legislators about the Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy. The committee looked at last year's handouts. Steve Stierwalt reported that Governor Rauner has said he wants to put a farmer in the Director seat at IDOA.

Legislative (Tom Beyers) - The Board voted that this year's Legislative Day will be March 10, 2015 with the Executive Board meeting afterwards. Focus Area Committees will meet the morning of March 11, 2015 and the full Board of Directors will meet after lunch that day. The Legislative Committee is allowing Mike Hoffmann to handle the Illinois Envirothon Day request.



DOT POINT HIGHLIGHTS: Page 4

Education (Jerry Snodgrass) - In the meeting, Valerie Keener reported that the Monarch Butterfly is being considered to be put on the endangered species list. There is also a concern that unless a college is a four year college, continuing education classes will not be put on. She or Jerry Snodgrass will send the office information that can be sent out IL ALL. The Teacher of the Year and George McKibben Scholarship applications have been updated for 2015. It was voted on by the Board that teachers no longer have to be full time to apply for Teacher of the Year.

Planning (Van Bitner) - During Van Bitner's report the Board voted that this year's Annual Meeting theme will be "What's the Buzz About Conservation?" It will go along with the NACD poster contest theme which is "Local Heroes, Your Hardworking Pollinators." The committee is also looking into a Sunday tour to a bee farm in Bloomington. The Board voted to let the Planning Committee continue researching this idea. The Annual Meeting will be July 27 and July 28, 2015 at the Northfield Inn in Springfield. The Board voted to allow the Planning Committee to come up with a logo that will go along with the theme.

Financials (Kenny Vosholler) - Due to the turnover in the office, the Board tabled the December 31, 2014 financial discussion until the March Quarterly Boards. The 2015 budget was presented and passed with adjustments. The Board also voted to allow Kenny Vosholler, the treasurer, to transfer funds he deemed necessary from the Building Account to the General Fund Account with the creation of a line item showing funds had been taken out and replaced. The Board voted to grant Kelly Thompson, Gina Bean, and Matt Hanauer \$100.00 each as a Christmas bonus in cash. It was also voted and passed to give the CREP Resource Specialists end of year bonuses as follows: Catherine Dunn = \$250, Sheryl Phillips = \$500, Tim Royer = \$500, Dan Sahm = \$500, Sarah Still = \$100, Jake Vancil = \$500. The Board voted and passed the following raises for the CRSs: Catherine Dunn and Sarah Still will receive 2.5% on their one year anniversaries. Sheryl Phillips, Tim, Royer, Dan Sahm, and Jake Vancil will all receive a 2.5% raise on their first check in 2015.

Urban Community & Conservation (Jerry Snodgrass and Gerard Fabrizio) - Gerard Fabrizio reported that the North Eastern Illinois Legislator tour had been canceled due to low attendance. He reported that AISWCD had paid \$331.22 for mailings that were sent out.

AREA VP REPORTS:

Area 1 (Jerry Snodgrass) - No Report

Area 2 (David McCormick) - No Report

Area 3 (Steve Stierwalt) - No Report

Area 4 (Glen Bowers) - Tom Beyers reported that he and Glen Bowers had been at a meeting where Glen Bowers commented on how the office and directors handled the issue of missing funds. He thought the office handled it as best as they could. At this meeting there was also a speaker on Gypsum.