

Legislative Focus Area Committee Meeting Minutes
AISWCD Quarterly Board
Northfield Inn, Springfield, IL
December 8, 2014

Members/Advisors Present:

Tom Beyers, Chairman
Dick Breckenridge, IEPA
Tessa Chadwick, NRCS
Sue Davis
Terry Davis
Steve Fulling
Mike Hoffmann, AISWCD Lobbyist
Ken Kesler
Dale Shumaker
Keith Livesay

Members/Advisors Absent:

Jason Anderson
Glen Bowers
Steve Chard, IDOA
Joe Rothermel
Lonnie Wilson

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

Approve Agenda-A motion was made by Ken Kesler and seconded by Dale Shumaker to approve the Agenda as presented, motion carried.

Approve June 9, 2014 Meeting Minutes-A motion was made by Dale Shumaker and seconded by Steve Fulling to approve the June 9, 2014 meeting minutes as presented, motion carried.

Legislative Update-Mike Hoffmann reported that the Veto Session ended last week with the House in for 4 days and the Senate in for 5 days. They did not do anything on the budget or taxes. The new Governor will be sworn into office on January 5, 2015 and the Budget Speech will be on the 2nd week of February 2015. Mike stated that Kelly, Myron and Tom will visit the Capitol the 1st week of February. He stated that Legislative Day should be held on March 3rd or March 10th with Quarterly Board to be held the next day. Gina is to check with the hotel to make sure what day is available. Mike suggested that for the Envirothon Day Resolution this year, give this to Mike to take to the Legislators.

Partner Reports:

- NRCS-Tessa Chadwick reported about the impending reorganization, she hopes it will happen after the first of the year. Tessa stated it has been very busy and hectic with CSP and EQIP. She talked about the new structure for the DC's in the multi-county groupings. One DC will be chosen for the groupings and the existing DC will become a Soil Conservationist. They will use Technicians in other counties to do the work in each county. There will be no single county offices for a DC any longer. Tessa then discussed the Client Gateway and how each District may have an opportunity to do Administrative Work for this and receive around \$4,600 to do it, this is still in the planning stages and has not been finalized yet.
- IEPA-Dick Breckenridge discussed the Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy. He passed out a Publication with Key Strategy Components of the Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy and an Executive Summary about the Draft for Comment. Dick stated that public comments can be made till January 23, 2015 and for now this is voluntary.

OLD BUSINESS

Annual Meeting Resolutions-Tom Beyers went over the Resolutions. The By-Law Change was adopted at last year's Annual Meeting and they are in the process of making a policy book which should be presented at the March Quarterly Board meeting.

Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy Position-The AISWCD supports this and Tom reminded everyone that the comment period is open until January 23, 2015.

Previous Resolutions:

- a. Feral Hogs-IDNR took action and have recently reported significant decline in the feral hog population. A Resolution was passed around from NACD that was sponsored by Mississippi Association of Conservation Districts entitled "Feral Swine Control".
- b. Invasive Species-A workshop was held at Summer Conference about this, they are working on making all lists of Invasive Species match.

North Eastern Legislative Tour-This was cancelled due to lack of interest.

MOU Update-The ISWCDEA has been working with NRCS for over a year on this. NRCS is waiting on a national template that they have to follow to be able to complete this.

House and Senate Bill Update-None

NEW BUSINESS

Legislative Day Update-It was discussed to do the same format as last year and to hold the event on March 3, 2015 or March 10, 2015.

WOTUS-The comment period has ended and the AISWCD is taking no position.

Proclamation Declaring 2015 Envirothon Day-There was one used in 2014 but was submitted late. This year it was suggested to go through Mike Hoffmann for this.

*Submitted by: Sue M. Davis
AC, Christian County SWCD*