

**Executive Committee**  
**September 14, 2015 Meeting Minutes**  
**IDOA Building in Springfield, IL**

**Present:**

Myron Kirby, President  
Tom Beyers, Vice President  
Van Bitner, Secretary  
Kenny Vosholler, Treasurer  
Jerry Snodgrass, Area 1 VP  
Steve Stierwalt, Area 3 VP  
Glen Bowers, Area 4 VP  
Lee Bunting, LUC 3 Rep  
Terry Davis, LUC 4 Rep  
Kelly Thompson, AISWCD  
Gina Bean, AISWCD  
Warren Goetsch, IDOA  
Eric Gerth, NRCS  
Mike Hoffmann  
Melissa Cauble, Insurance Committee  
Sondra Baker, ISWCDEA  
Kara Downin, ISWCDEA  
Vicki Heath, ISWCDEA  
Marie Bunting, Auxiliary

**Absent:**

Lonnie Wilson, Past President  
David McCormick, Area 2 VP  
Matt Hanauer, AISWCD

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 12:05 pm by Chairman/AISWCD President Myron Kirby and Gina Bean took roll.

**Approve Agenda**

Jerry Snodgrass asked for the amendment to have a meeting at the end of the Executive Committee meeting that would include only Executive Officers. The agenda with the amendment was approved by all.

**Approve June 2015 Minutes**

1<sup>st</sup>=Glen Bowers                      2<sup>nd</sup>= Tom Beyers                      Carried = All

**Approve August Conference Call Minutes**

1<sup>st</sup> = Kenny Vosholler              2<sup>nd</sup> = Tom Beyers                      Carried = All

**PARTNER REPORTS**

**NRCS** – Eric Gerth (Acting State Conservationist) reported that Ivan Dozier was currently in Washington D.C. until this coming December. The administration reorganization is still going on. NRCS will be advertising for 34 District Conservationist positions. They will not be adding new positions. Those not selected will be Soil Conservationists. They hope to have everything in place by the end of the calendar year. Eric reported that they are looking to expand the current agreement with AISWCD.

**IDOA-** Warren Goetsch (Chief of Staff) reported that the budget is at a stalemate. IDOA is still moving forward with the four layoffs of the Regional Representatives. Reps that have not found new positions at IDOA may find a position at another state agency. Warren was optimistic that funding will come and layoffs will not happen. If Districts have information that needs to be sent to IDOA, they should send it to Steve Chard and payments should be sent to Carrie Tiskos after the September 30<sup>th</sup> date. Warren let the committee know that Director Nelson had spoken with the Governor directly about the SWCD's funding situation.

**ISWCDEA** – Vicki Heath reported that ISWCDEA had a special meeting on August 26<sup>th</sup> to discuss Legislators. They constructed information sheets and postcards to pass out during the Farm Progress Show. They will be having a Winter Training meeting this week and they may be looking at a NLRs session.

**AISWCD Lobbyist** – Mike Hoffmann reported that there was no activity on the state budget. The House and the Senate had not been in this week. Myron Kirby, Kelly Thompson, and Mike have been in contact with Legislators, GOMB, and IDOA. When it comes to the House Bill 4282, neither party wants to go against their leader. He assured the group that the SWCDs were not the only grant program being suspended. Some have been more vocal and public. He encouraged everyone to keep contacting Legislators for sponsorship on the bill. Mike welcomed ISWCDEA to contact him to partner on contacting and reaching out to Legislators. He let them know that personalized letters and phone calls work best.

### **AREA VICE PRESIDENT REPORTS**

**Area 1:** Jerry Snodgrass reported that he had attended three out of four Land Use Council meetings in his area. He feels Kelly Thompson's email titled "Weekly Wonders" has been helpful for communications and she should keep sending them out. He let the group know that Districts are wondering about double signatures on the checks. Myron Kirby let him know that the practice of Gina Bean writing the checks and Kelly Thompson signing the checks was discussed back in December and it was the system they were using. Jerry asked if the office could look into a phone system that would go to Kelly or Gina's cell phones when they are not in the office. Jerry asked if AISWCD would be able to help cover meals at Winter Training. It was expressed that due to AISWCD not having any funds coming in currently that this would not be possible. Mike Hoffmann offered at this time to help pitch in for the meals. He cannot cover all meals but will donate what he can.

**Area 2:** David McCormick was not in attendance

**Area 3:** Steve Stierwalt did not have a report.

**Area 4:** Glen Bowers encouraged the group to not give up on WOTUS. His area has also been talking about the funding situation.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**Precision Conservation Management Pilot Project** – Myron Kirby reported that NRCS is looking at getting a computer seat for the PCM specialists. They will be hiring two specialists in the near future. They will be working with Farm Business Farm Management. These positions will not take the place of an R.C.'s job. Districts will be compensated for working with a PCM specialist. Laura Gentry from the IL Corn Growers Association will soon be having weekly phone calls to discuss the project and will be drafting a one page sheet on the positions that will be sent to the Districts so their concerns can be put at ease.

**AISWCD Fall Intern/Grant Administrator Position** – Kelly Thompson reported that while AISWCD needs a grant administrator to help with the NRCS agreements, there are currently not enough funds in the bank account to cover that position. Invoicing for this agreement is still new and AISWCD has not gotten any administration fees as of today.

**NACD Summer Board Meeting Update** – Kenny Vosholler reported that the NACD meeting offered a new dues structure and they also talked about the current newsletter and costs to produce it.

**NRCS Client Gateway/CDSI/CRP Update** - Gina Bean reported that the first round of checks for the administration portion had gone out to the districts. The second checks are written and sitting in QuickBooks ready to print when funds are deposited into the grant account. Kelly Thompson let the group know that the Client Gateway and CDSI

need to start being called “Administrative Assistance.” Eric Gerth agreed and thinks this would help lessen the confusion. NRCS is working on an agreement to extend the contract for another year. More information will come out on this agreement when items are finalized.

**A motion was made to give Myron Kirby and Tom Beyers authority to look at the new contract extension and approve.**

**1<sup>st</sup> = Steve Stierwalt**

**2<sup>nd</sup> = Jerry Snodgrass**

**Carried = All**

**Illinois Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy Taskforce Update** – The taskforce had met earlier in the day. They would like to pursue 97 roadshows where each District would tailor it to their needs. Tom Beyers will put together a cover sheet on this new effort. Roadshows would be in January and February. These roadshows would be similar to the ones that have already taken place and could use the same agendas. It is the taskforce’s hope that fertilizer groups would pay for the meals that would be provided.

**A motion was made to proceed to have Districts write a plan for the NLRS roadshows.**

**1<sup>st</sup> = Steve Stierwalt**

**2<sup>nd</sup> = Jerry Snodgrass**

**Carried = All**

### **SWCD Insurance Update**

**Health Insurance** – Melissa Cauble from the insurance committee passed around a letter from CMS and a thank you letter to GOMB for their meeting. The districts have been with CMS since 2001 and the committee is fighting hard to stay on the current plan. She reported that she needs 72 employees to stay on the plan to keep the contract. She currently has 58 confirmed and 30 districts that have not responded.

**Policies AISWCD Holds and Pays** – Kelly Thompson and Gina Bean gave summaries of the current policies AISWCD holds for the Districts. Typically AISWCD pays these invoices and IDOA reimburses them. AISWCD has been paying bills since July with no reimbursement. IDOA has been invoiced.

**A motion was made that since IDOA has not reimbursed the insurance invoice, AISWCD will need to halt payment on policies they hold for the districts. AISWCD will send a letter to Districts letting them know as of September 30, 2015 they will need to start paying for these insurance policies. AISWCD will provide the districts what they have paid that was not reimbursed.**

**1<sup>st</sup> = Jerry Snodgrass**

**2<sup>nd</sup> = Glen Bowers**

**Carried = All**

### **FY2016 SWCD Budget**

Lee Bunting proposed that AISWCD hold an impromptu Legislative Day. Due to current funds, it was discussed and decided that AISWCD would send out information on having a Legislative Call In Day on Tuesday, Sept 22, 2015 at 10:00 am. The AISWCD office will send out information to SWCDs to conduct these phone calls.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Future Funding Opportunities**

It was discussed for Districts to come up with a listing of all services they provide and a value that they could charge.

The next full board meeting will be at the December Quarterly Board meeting in Springfield.

**Adjourned:** At 3:55 pm, the meeting closed to only Executive Committee officers.

*Minutes Taken By: Gina Bean, AISWCD*