

**Executive Committee Minutes
December Quarterly Boards
Northfield Inn, Springfield, IL
December 7, 2015 @ 9:00 am**

Present:

Myron Kirby, President
Tom Beyers, Vice President
Van Bitner, Secretary
Kenny Vosholler, Treasurer
Jerry Snodgrass, Area 1 VP
David McCormick, Area 2 VP
Steve Stierwalt, Area 3 VP
Steve Fulling (Sitting in for Glen Bowers)
Kelly Thompson, AISWCD
Gina Bean, AISWCD
Matt Hanauer, AISWCD
Marquitta Thomas, AISWCD
Marie Bunting, Auxiliary President
Thad Eshleman, ISWCDEA
Eric Gerth, NRCS
Richard Rappley, CREP
Sheryl Phillips, CREP
Tim Royer, CREP
Brian Rennecker, CREP
Dan Sahn, CREP
Lee Bunting
Terry Bogner

Absent:

Lonnie Wilson, Past President
Glen Bowers, Area 4 VP
Spring Duffey, ISWCDEA
Mike Hoffmann, Lobbyist

Myron Kirby called the meeting to order at 9:09 am and Van Bitner took roll.

Approval of the agenda.

1st = Jerry Snodgrass 2nd = Steve Stierwalt Carried = ALL

Approval of the September 2015 Minutes

This item could not be done due to the June minutes being included in the packet instead of the September minutes. This item will be moved to the March Quarterly Board meeting.

Partner Reports

Eric Gerth, Acting State Conservationist, was present and gave his report for NRCS. Ivan Dozier will be staying in Washington D.C. until January 16, 2016. They have been in constant communication regarding state matters. The NRCS restructure has been set into place. There are now four areas instead of five and 34 new district groupings. New positions started on November 29th. Eric then passed around a FY2015 "At a Glance" sheet. Eric believes things are going well with the agreement NRCS has with AISWCD.

Area Vice President Reports

A. Area 1 VP - Jerry Snodgrass reported that he has attended three of the four Land Use Council (LUC) meetings in his area. They are all sharing thoughts on funding. LUC 1 met and most districts will stay open until late 2016. Those districts are wondering how much money they should keep in their account before they close and how long the AISWCD can last on their funds. Myron Kirby let the committee know that AISWCD will be ok for the next year or two. This is in big part to the agreement they have with NRCS. He thinks every district needs to decide how much money to keep in their accounts, but him and Kelly Thompson will look into a few items districts should be thinking about when they are heading towards closure. Those items include but are not limited to: what districts owe out, insurance, contracts, etc.

B. Area 2 VP - David McCormick was present but did not have a report.

C. Area 3 VP - Steve Stierwalt reported that funding is the main topic in his area. He had just came back from the Farm Bureau annual meeting in Chicago. He reported that there was a resolution that came up concerning conservation practices in policy. It did not come out of open resolutions but was being discussed if it will be brought forward.

D. Area 4 VP - Glen Bowers was not present, but Steve Fulling was sitting in for him. He reported that LUC 11 had met after the meeting with Farm Bureau. The Association is having to answer a lot of half truths and hopes better communication can resolve that problem. Two counties in his area will not last another year on current funds. Districts are wondering what the Association is doing and how they are surviving if Districts are not. There was discussion on a letter Jerry Snodgrass had sent out to his area that was not intended to be shared with the state. Myron Kirby stressed that NRCS has expressed numerous times that without AISWCD, they would not be able to work with the individual SWCDs on the current agreements they hold with AISWCD.

Old Business

2015 SWCD Dues Update - Gina Bean reported that three districts had not paid the first installment of dues for 2015. Those counties included Kankakee, Pope/Hardin, and Adams. Four districts had not paid the second installment of dues for 2015. Those counties included Kankakee, Pope/Hardin, Adams, and Macon.

Grants Update

604B

Matt Hanauer reported that the Illinois Urban Manual Technical Review Committee is currently working on several standards. Sediment Forebay and Temporary Stream Crossing standards have been passed by both committees and are currently being approved by the IEPA. Erosion Control Blanket standard update has passed through public review and is being looked at one last time before being sent to the IEPA. Technical Review Committee and Steering Committee meetings will take place on December 10th and December 15th, respectively.

The current grant period ends July 2016, but another will begin at that time through July 2017.

CREP

Gina Bean reported that Sarah Still, housed in Brown County, had left her position on November 30, 2015 and that the process for rehiring is underway. She also introduced the newest CREP Resource Specialist (CRS), Brian Rennecker who is housed in Sangamon County. She opened the conversation at that time to ask any of the CRSs any questions.

NRCS Agreements

Kelly Thompson let the committee know that the CRP payment checks had been signed

and that Gina Bean would be getting those in the mail that day. The next CRP sign up will be coming up this February through June. She stressed that Administrative Assistance is more than just Client Gateway. This contract will last until June 1, 2016 and the new contracts will go out to districts before that. It was asked that she find out how many Districts currently participate in the CRP portion of the contract.

NACD North Central Region Update - Myron Kirby reported that they are currently talking about Farm Bill language. This was all he reported and let the committee know the reason for that was his main focus has been on issues in Illinois with SWCDs.

FY 2015 SWCD Budget Update - Myron Kirby reported that he had met with the Lt. Governor recently. She let him know that AISWCD had done a great job presenting on SWCDs in Peoria. She had let him know the taskforce on local units of government should have their report out by the end of the month. Myron also reported that him and Kelly Thompson would be meeting with the new IDOA Director, Raymond Poe, on December 14, 2015. Gina Bean reported on the insurance money that districts are sending in for general liability and workers compensation. Districts are doing good with sending in payments. The next set of invoices for January through March will be going out soon. She is still hoping to collect insurance money from IDOA that AISWCD paid out of pocket July through September without reimbursement from IDOA or districts. This amount is slightly over \$21,000.00.

PCM Update—Kelly Thompson reported that she talks to Laura Gentry from the IL Corn Growers Association frequently. They are still working out housing districts, additional funding, and job descriptions. It was asked that Kelly ask about seeing if SWCD employees can share those job duties instead of hiring new employees.

Illinois Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy Taskforce Update—Tom Beyers reported that they had presentations at the past summer conference, but funding and insurance has taken priority until the September meeting. That meeting resulted in asking districts to host local roadshows this winter. Farm Bureau is having some of their own as well. There are 33 districts that have expressed they will be holding a roadshow. Dick Lyons from the Drainage Districts and Montgomery County has asked Tom to be on a NLRs subcommittee. Steve Fulling asked for a list of contacts for the districts for the roadshows.

AISWCD Fall/Winter Intern - Kelly Thompson introduced Marquitta Thomas as the new Communications Intern. Marquitta has been helping Matt Hanauer and the office with communication materials and has been helping with the NRCS documents that districts turn in.

New Business

Upcoming NACD Events

A motion was made to send Myron Kirby to the North Central Region NACD Meeting in January.

1st = Tom Beyers 2nd = Steve Fulling Carried = ALL

Myron Kirby reported that he will be asking NACD to send a letter of support to the Illinois Government for the SWCDs.

A motion was made to send Tom Beyers to the NACD Annual Meeting in Reno, Nevada this coming January/February .

1st = Kenny Vosholler 2nd = Jerry Snodgrass Carried = ALL

AISWCD will only be sending one member this year due to a decreased budget. Tom Beyers will only be asking AISWCD to cover the general registration and hotel room.

NACD Auction Item

There was discussion on whether or not to send an auction item this year to the NACD annual meeting. AISWCD has been asked to send another varmint rifle since it did so well last year.

Jerry Snodgrass has checked with the company and it will be approximately \$560 for the rifle and shipping.

A motion was made to open up donations to the full board of directors for the defender series rifle for the 2016 NACD Annual Meeting auction. Any extra funds collected will be used for the 2016 AISWCD Summer Conference auction.

1st = Steve Fulling 2nd = Steve Stierwalt Carried = ALL

State Funding and Recommendations

Myron Kirby pointed out that the board members' packets included SWCD Letters to AISWCD concerning funding. He would like to see how the meeting with Director Poe goes on December 14, 2015.

Steve Stierwalt reported on behalf of the Directors that have come together to work on a plan. Those Directors are Steve Stierwalt, Lee Bunting, Terry Bogner, and Jerry Snodgrass. There was a clean water funding taskforce handout passed around the room. Steve expressed that they have been hearing from everyone that there needs to be an accountability component to the SWCDs. This could mean districts would have to report back with what they have been working on. They would like to use NREC or a similar group to distribute the funds due to the fact that their money cannot be swept in legislation. Steve and the group of directors would like to actively pursue a dedicated funding source at the full board meeting.

Steve Stierwalt also reported that districts are being asked by the Governor's office and other groups to look different. Another handout went around the room concerning a plan comprised of different county groupings. Jerry Snodgrass reported that when he attended Land Use Council 1's meeting, directors in that area thought a plan like that could work.

Employee Raises/Bonuses

The committee went into a closed session at this time to discuss employee raises and bonuses. This closed session only included board members.

Adjournment

The meeting was brought back into open session and was adjourned at 12:29 pm.

1st = Steve Fulling 2nd = Kenny Vosholler Carried = ALL