

**AISWCD Board of Directors Meeting
Meeting Minutes
March 3, 2016: Northfield Inn, Springfield, IL**

Present:

Myron Kirby, President	Bruce Yingling, LUC 8
Tom Beyers, Vice President (Phone)	Jason Anderson, LUC 9
Kenny Vosholler, Treasurer	Daniel Doedtman, LUC 10
Van Bitner, Secretary	Steve Fulling, LUC 11 (Phone)
Jerry Snodgrass, Area 1 VP	Don Beisiegel, LUC 12
David McCormick, Area 2 VP	Roger Johnson, LUC 13
Steve Stierwalt, Area 3 VP	Dale Shumaker, LUC 15
Glen Bowers, Area 4 VP	Gerard Fabrizio, LUC 16
Barb Klinger, LUC 1	Kelly Thompson, AISWCD
Terry Bogner, LUC 2 (Phone)	Gina Bean, AISWCD
Lee Bunting, LUC 3 (Phone)	Matt Hanauer, AISWCD
Ross Adams, LUC 3	Marquitta Thomas, AISWCD
Larry Sterett, LUC 4	Spring Duffey, ISWCDEA
Dan Duval, LUC 5	Thad Eshleman, ISWCDEA
Randy Molitoris, LUC 6	Sondra Baker, Envirothon
Joe Rothermel, LUC 7	

Absent:

Terry Davis, LUC 4
Tom Anderson, LUC 14
Marie Bunting, Auxiliary President

Myron Kirby called the meeting to order at 1:25 pm. Van Bitner took roll.

Myron Kirby stated that there would be changes to the order of the agenda. After "Agency Partner Reports" all new business would be discussed and then they would continue with the rest of the partner reports.

A motion was made to approve the agenda as discussed.

1st= Roger Johnson 2nd= Glen Bowers Carried = All

Approve December 2015 minutes as printed.

1st= Roger Johnson 2nd= Don Beisiegel

Discussion:

Gerard Fabrizio asked that the following changes be made to the December 2015 minutes:

1. On page 34, last paragraph, Gerard Fabrizio would like it to read "Gerard Fabrizio motioned to add five employees and himself to the taskforce. A second was not asked for by Myron Kirby. Myron stated he would take it under advisement."

2. On page 34, under additional items, Gerard Fabrizio stated that the second paragraph under additional items, he wanted added that there was "no discussion on the motion" and that Myron Kirby had stepped away from his chair to be a voting member to table the motion.

****Note: Further research into the December 2015 minutes show that on page 35 that Myron Kirby did step away from his position to table the motion.***

The motion to approve the December 2015 minutes as discussed was approved by all.

AISWCD Board of Directors Meeting Minutes (Continued)

Partner Reports

IDOA: Steve Chard reported that the IDOA has the Soil and Water Conservation Districts in the budget at \$4 million, \$2 million being for operations and \$2 million being for cost-share. He stated that Warren Goetsch would discuss that further when he joined the meeting. Steve reported that the conservation cropping seminars had been successful and that they had 300 people in attendance. Locations are set for next year including Rockford, Jacksonville, and Carbondale.

New Business

North Central Region NACD Meeting (January 13, 2015) Update- Myron Kirby updated the board from his recent NACD North Central Region meeting. He let them know that the event had a lot of focus on pollinators. He stayed for the Indiana SWCD annual conference which he thought was very impressive.

State Funding Plan Update - /Chairman's Meeting Update—Myron Kirby reported on the detailed funding plan that would be voted on during the meeting. He stressed that it was a working document. He let the group know that after the front page of the plan had been premiered, he was no longer hearing the word consolidation.

Myron Kirby thanked the taskforces that helped develop the plan and stated that Steve Stierwalt had moved the group forward more in the last six months. Myron also reported that he and Kelly Thompson had met with Alec Messina, Policy Advisor for Environment and Energy, from the Governor's office before the Legislative Day event and the meeting was very positive.

Myron Kirby explained to the group that discussion could be had on the plan but they would be voting either yes or no to support the entire document and they would not be voting on the options individually that were listed in the document.

Discussion on the Plan:

Kenny Vosholler discussed the plan with the board.

Myron Kirby let the group know that the SWCDs have to have employees to survive.

Kelly Thompson explained to the group that the part concerning numbers of employees and IDOA, was referencing the fact that with other grants, you must ok employee numbers and salaries initially with the agency supplying the funds for the grant. Myron Kirby also gave an example that there are Districts who employ only one employee who is part time and they are receiving the entire allocation that all of the other Districts are receiving. This feature in the plan was for accountability.

There was concern from members of the board on this part of the plan.

Steve Chard from IDOA, spoke to let the board members know that IDOA does not see their relationship with Districts changing. He reinforced that for the 2017 budget, Districts are a line item under the Partners in Conservation Grant. Ross Adams had looked up Ag line items and pointed out that all other ag line items received what they had asked for or more except SWCDs. Gerard Fabrizius wanted it to be known that SWCDs want to be a line item in the 2017 budget. Jason Anderson asked if Districts could use funds allocated to them, with this plan, to pay for employee insurance through CMS. Myron Kirby confirmed letting him know that yes they could do that. Jason also asked what would happen if a District felt the funds were too low and it was not taken. Myron let him know that details would have to be worked out, but those funds could be put into the performance based funding pot of money.

Myron Kirby let the board know that it is ok for Districts to share employees, much like many are already doing.

AISWCD Board of Directors Meeting Minutes (Continued)

Joe Rothermel wanted to know who would control the 25% performance based funding money. Myron Kirby let him know that he could not answer that at this time, but pointed out that AISWCD has not administered those funds in the past.

The question was asked to Steve Chard if he had seen the plan and if IDOA was willing to do what was stated in the plan. Steve let him know that it was a proposal and that he could not endorse the plan but could say that a plan needs to make the SWCDs look different.

A motion was made to approve the funding plan as presented.

1st= Jerry Snodgrass 2nd= Randy Molitoris

Myron Kirby, let the Board of Directors know that a vote would be taken at the Directors table first and then votes on the phone would be heard. He stated that he would state the Directors name and at that time the Director would let it be known their position.

Name	Position on the Board	Vote
Tom Beyers (Phone)	Vice President	Yes
Kenny Vosholler	Treasurer	Yes
Jerry Snodgrass	Area 1 Vice President	Yes
David McCormick	Area 2 Vice President	No
Steve Stierwalt	Area 3 Vice President	Yes
Glen Bowers	Area 4 Vice President	Yes
Barb Klinger	LUC 1 Representative	Yes
Terry Bogner (Phone)	LUC 2 Representative	Yes
Ross Adams	LUC 3 Representative	No
Larry Sterett	LUC 4 Representative	No
Dan Duval	LUC 5 Representative	Yes
Randy Molitoris	LUC 6 Representative	Yes
Joe Rothermel	LUC 7 Representative	Yes
Bruce Yingling	LUC 8 Representative	No
Jason Anderson	LUC 9 Representative	Yes
Daniel Doedtman	LUC 10 Representative	Yes
Don Beisiegel	LUC 12 Representative	Yes
Roger Johnson	LUC 13 Representative	Yes
Dale Shumaker	LUC 15 Representative	Yes
Gerard Fabrizius	LUC 16 Representative	No

At the time of the vote, Van Bitner and Steve Fulling were not present.

The vote was calculated by Gina Bean as 15 Yes votes and 5 No votes. Myron Kirby stated he had the same count and that the proposal would move forward.

Partner Reports Continued

ISWCDEA - Thad Eshleman started his report by letting the board know that ISWCDEA appreciated the time allowed at the Chairman's meeting for them to present their plan. Spring Duffey is working on training for employees. Thad also reported that they are planning sessions for Tuesday during summer conference and that he will discuss it further with Kelly Thompson and Gina Bean.

Envirothon - Sondra Baker gave a report that local competitions have already started taking place. This year's event will be April 27 and April 28 in Monticello, IL. The deadline for team and volunteer registrations is April 11th. The deadline for team release forms is April 15th. She is confident that she will

AISWCD Board of Directors Meeting Minutes (Continued)

raise enough funds for this year's event. Pheasants Forever are donating this year and plan to reach the \$5,000 sponsorship level in the future so their name will appear on the winning trophies. District sponsorships are lower this year but Sondra says that was expected with the current funding situation. The National competition will be held in Canada this year. If the winning team drives they will not need to purchase passports they can purchase a passbook which is much cheaper.

SWCD Insurance - Melissa Cauble reported that she currently has 88 members listed on the CMS coverage. She also reported that since last quarterly boards, nine resource conservationists have left their positions with SWCDs for other employment that offered health insurance. She talked with Alec Messina at the Legislative Day reception about the concern of having no technical staff by the end of the year.

Old Business

SWCD Dues Update - Gina Bean gave the dues update by stating that since the by-laws were changed in July to say that an active voting member shall be the Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Illinois, whose dues have been paid in full for the previous 365 days, the association is now only looking at the last invoice that was sent April 7, 2015. Districts that have not paid that invoice include Adams, Kankakee, Macon, and Pope/Hardin. After April 7, 2016, all Districts will be considered in good standing as long as no other operation funds are distributed that the Association can collect dues on.

Grants Update

A.604B - Matt Hanauer reported that the IUM Technical Review Committee is currently updating more than 10 standards, including five basin standards, a new rolled perimeter control standard, three streambank protection standards, and three tree protection standards. A request for proposal was also sent out to update the Temporary Sediment Trap standard. Standards for Sediment Forebays, Temporary Stream Crossings, and Erosion Control Blankets have been updated and approved by the IEPA. A long term planning meeting is planned for March 21st to discuss the future of the project through a new grant cycle, beginning in July 2016, and beyond. Matt Hanauer's position will be changing in the future to allow him to spend more time working with districts to create watershed groups and put together watershed plans. Several counties have already reached out and the Association will be willing to help as much as possible.

B.CREP - Gina Bean reported that all six positions are currently filled with Brooke Myres in Brown County being the latest hire. Her start date was February 16, 2016. Gina and Kelly had a meeting recently with IEPA and IDNR to discuss the current contracts and funding for the grant. IDNR and AISWCD have a signed contract for the grant but because the IDNR funds are from the state, AISWCD cannot bill them until the state budget has been passed. At the current spending rate, using only IEPA funding, the grant will last until June. Starting April 1st, like many state agencies, CRSs will still turn in expense reports, but will not be reimbursed until the IDNR funds are released. If there is still not a state budget by June 1st, AISWCD will start furlough days for the CRSs beginning with one a week.

C.NRCS Agreement - Kelly Thompson updated the committee letting them know that she has emailed SWCDs that have been reporting zero on their Administrative Assistance reports. She will need to give that information to Angela Biggs. The new CRP agreement has started and will go till June with document turn in dates in April and June.

AISWCD Board of Directors Meeting Minutes (Continued)

Illinois Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy Taskforce Update—Myron Kirby let the group know that Tom Beyers' report was in the handout folder. It states that SWCDs had hosted nearly 50 NLRS roadshows this winter.

Committee Reports

Executive

A motion was made for Ivan Dozier (NRCS) to be the 2016 Friend of Conservation.

1st= Roger Johnson 2nd= Glen Bowers Carried = All

Forestry - David McCormick reported that the committee had partner reports but no action items to discuss.

Illinois Rivers Coordinating Council – Steve Fulling gave his report from the phone. He talked to the board about how the Illinois State Lt. Governor made it a point to talk to him and speak highly of the AISWCD group that spoke on behalf of the SWCDs at her Peoria meeting. Gina Bean will email his full report to the board after Quarterly Boards.

Nominating Committee (All Four Executive Positions Up For Elections) - Terry Davis was not present for the report and had not sent in a report to discuss. This item will be moved to the June Quarterly Board meeting for discussion.

Focus Area Committee Reports

Communications - Steve Stierwalt reported that 50 Districts had hosted NLRS roadshows recently. They would like to see the Association produce a press release that can state this fact that all Districts could use to promote future roadshows. The committee feels that Legislators should be invited to the NLRS roadshows. The state office can start the process, but Districts need to then take it over.

Dan Doedtman reported that during Legislative Day, receptionists told him to email Urban Legislators and to let them know who the SWCDs are.

Gerard Fabrizio asked President Kirby to allow Steve Stierwalt to present his Long Range Plan at this time. President Kirby allowed.

Steve Stierwalt has met with Carol Hays and Mike Baise who support SWCDs. They will look into securing funding for those that may work on a strategic plan for Districts. The strategic plan process could identify where SWCDs want to be in five years. A plan could then develop. Myron Kirby reported that Steve is moving forward on this item.

Education - Jerry Snodgrass reported that the committee reworded a couple of areas of the George McKibben Scholarship and the Teacher of the Year awards. Sponsors for the Teacher of the Year award are locked in for 2016. He encouraged Directors to reach out to teachers for this award.

Planning - Van Bitner reported that the biggest change to this year's conference is that instead of partner reports at Opening Ceremony they will only report at the annual meeting. The Opening Ceremony will consist of District spotlights.

AISWCD Board of Directors Meeting Minutes (Continued)

Legislative

A motion was made to name Jerry Costello as this year's Legislator of the Year.

1st= Roger Johnson 2nd= Don Beisegel Carried = All

Glen Bowers would like the group to consider Representative Charles Meier for this award in the upcoming years.

Kelly Thompson gave a report on Legislative day that there were 77 SWCD Employees, Directors, and partners present for the Legislative Day event. She also reported that there 12 Legislators that attended the reception. Gina Bean will send a complete report out the following week. Gerard Fabrizio would like the association to look into holding the event in the morning next year.

Financials - Kenny Vosholler discussed items that had come up in the financial meeting.

A motion was made for the Board to decide how to report all income and expenses so that the Association as more transparency.

1st= Dan Duval 2nd= Jason Anderson Carried = All

A motion was made for AISWCD to continue to cover and invoice Districts for the general liability, property, inland marine, and workers compensation policy and look into billing Districts for invoice differences.

1st= Kenny Vosholler 2nd= Roger Johnson Carried= All

Accept Financials: 1st= Gerard Fabrizio 2nd= Dan Doedtman Carried= All

Urban Community & Conservation – Gerard Fabrizio reported that NRCS has begun a pilot project to reach urban producers. They are currently working in Lake and N. Cook counties and have had some success. The application process is similar to other NRCS conservation programs.

Area VP Reports

Area 1 - Jerry Snodgrass reported that he brought up questions from his area at the Executive committee meeting and those will be answered.

Area 2 - David McCormick thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and stated that everything from his area had been covered.

Area 3 - Steve Stierwalt reported that there was nothing new to report.

Area 4 - Glen Bowers reported that his area is concerned with funding.

Additional Items

Myron Kirby reported that the varmint rifle that was donated from the board brought in \$2500.00 at the NACD auction. He thanked everyone who donated.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:01pm.

1st= Barb Klinger 2nd= Van Bitner Carried = All

Minutes taken and transcribed by Gina Bean, AISWCD Administrative Coordinator.