

Association of Illinois Soil & Water Conservation Districts  
68<sup>th</sup> Annual Business Meeting  
Tuesday, July 26, 2016  
1:00-4:55 p.m.  
Northfield Inn Conference Center  
Springfield, Illinois

The meeting was called to order at 1:13 p.m. by AISWCD President Myron Kirby. The Invocation was given by AISWCD Secretary Van Bitner and the attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance led by AISWCD Vice President Tom Beyers.

**Roll Call by Van Bitner**

Present were the following counties for the 1<sup>st</sup> roll call: Bond, Brown, Calhoun, Carroll, Cass, Champaign, Christian, Clark, Clinton, Crawford, Cumberland, Dekalb, Dewitt, Douglas, Edgar, Effingham, Fayette, Ford, Franklin, Greene, Grundy, Hancock, Henderson, Henry, Iroquois, Jackson, Jasper, JoDaviess, Kane-Dupage, Knox, LaSalle, Lawrence, Lee, Livingston, Logan, Macoupin, Madison, Marion, Marshall-Putnam, Mason, McDonough, McHenry-Lake, Mercer, Montgomery, Morgan, Moultrie, North Cook, Peoria, Perry, Piatt, Pulaski-Alexander, Richland, Rock Island, St. Clair, Saline, Sangamon, Schuyler, Stark, Stephenson, Tazewell, Union, Vermillion, Warren, Washington, Wayne, White, Whiteside, Will-South Cook, Williamson, Winnebago, Woodford. Van Bitner reported there was a quorum present.

**Agenda**

A motion was made by Henderson County and seconded by Warren County to approve the Agenda. Motion carried.

**Introductions**

President Kirby introduced the Parliamentarian, Allen Ritter. He also introduced the AISWCD Officers: Vice-President Tom Beyers, Secretary-Treasurer Van Bitner. He also recognized Kenny Vosholler for his service as Treasurer prior to have to resign the position. He introduced the AISWCD office staff: Executive Director Kelly Thompson, Administrative Coordinator Kaila Long, Office Support Marquitta Thomas, Watershed Coordinator Matt Hanauer and Program Support Specialist Sheryl Phillips.

**Approve District Voting Delegate Rules**

A motion was made by Livingston County and seconded by Henderson County to approve the rules as read by Secretary Van Bitner (pg. 36 in the Delegate Packet). Motion carried.

**Approval of 2015 Annual Meeting Minutes**

A motion was made by Effingham County and seconded by Richland County to approve the 2015 Annual Meeting Minutes (pgs. 6-10 in the Delegate Packet) as presented. Motion carried.

### **Approval of 2015-2016 Board Meeting Minutes**

Two corrections are needed in the June 7, 2016, minutes. Tom Beyers was present in person and Terry Davis was absent. A motion was made by Henderson County and seconded by Moultrie County to approve the minutes with the aforementioned corrections. Motion carried.

### **Audit Report**

Matt Hamstra with Pehlman & Dold, PC gave the Audit Report (pgs. 31-35 in the Voting Delegate Pack). He went over the reports for the AISWCD and the AISWCD Foundation. He did state the final audit for the AISWCD is not finalized because the federal income threshold of \$750,000 was exceeded (NRCS Contribution Agreement funds) and additional time is needed to complete the additional forms. He did state that the final figures will not change.

President Kirby advised attendees that an exit audit is scheduled to be completed as soon as the auditors have the time available. This audit was scheduled due to Gina Bean's resignation.

### **Partner Reports**

**IEPA** Amy Walkenbach said that the new Director of IEPA, Alec Messina, is a supporter of SWCDs. She stated that the IEPA has established work groups for urban storm water issues. She said that they would like for SWCDs to hold fewer NLRs meetings in the future and to become more involved with watershed planning. She said the focus needs to be on BMP, the 4-R's, MRTN calculator and cover crops. IEPA will be having a watershed planning workshop in the fall in Effingham and more information will be distributed prior to the event. Nine SWCDs have received a 319 Grant and they all address nutrients.

**NRCS** Ivan Dozier gave a positive report about the state of NRCS. NRCS has more money than any other agency in the state for conservation work because they base their totals off acreage. They are making headway by seeking funding from sources in addition to state funding. While they used to get 15 million from the state and are now getting 9 million, they have other sources of revenue that bring their total income to 13 million. They still have more demands for conservation work than funding, but they hope that by continuing to pursue other means of funding they will be able to achieve more. NRCS has also reorganized to focus their vision and goals, not just to save money. They are also looking to put people out in the field, especially recent graduates, and are one person away from a compliance team. They have a new system of certified planners and agronomics job approval authorities. This system will require staff training and new employees. With this new vision, NRCS seeks to achieve their goals by Fiscal Year 2018.

**ISWCDEA** Spring Duffy and Thad Eshleman recognized all district employees and directors for their hard work and dedication. They also gave special recognition to all of the ISWCDEA board members.

**Illinois Forestry Development Council** Dave McCormick stated that they need more volunteers to attend their meetings and that they will have RCPP grant money available. Their office should be contacted if anybody is interested in applying for grant money.

**AISWCD Auxillary** No report was given other than Marie Bunting encouraged directors to bring their spouses to next year's meeting.

**IDoA** Warren Goetsch stated that he was pleased to see SWCDs included in the state's stop-gap budget at 2.2 million for operations and 2.8 million for PFC cost share. They are working with GOMB to see if any of the PFC funds can be shifted to operations. It is not known if the funds will be received quarterly or in a lump sum. He stated that SWCDs still need to explore options to reduce staff and/or administrative costs. He thanked SWCDs for their input and for hosting NLRs meetings. The Vegetative Filter Strip Acts has been extended to December 31, 2026. The Pollinator Protection Program is developing a plan to regulate the use of pesticides. A Proclamation was signed that allowed the Governor's Farm Family Award to continue for 2016, 2017 and 2018 and it can carry the governor's name.

**NRCS** Ivan Dozier offered his appreciation for receiving this year's Friend of Conservation Award. He stated that in recent years the central region had spent 10 million dollars on EQIP contracts but that this year there was only 9 million spent. He stated that the central region has the highest CSP with 250,000-260,000 acres. He stated that the recent reorganization of NRCS was not about saving money but to get more technical people in the field. There are still 40 positions statewide to be filled. The state office is establishing a compliance team for HEL and Wetlands and they have one vacancy to fill before the team is fully filled. Beginning in FY18, certified planners will need agronomic certification. He stated that as training becomes available, SWCD personnel will be invited to attend so long as there are seats available.

**Legislative** Mike Hoffman stated that he had no new information to share. There will be no 2016 funds for SWCDs. He stated that the 5 million for 2017 probably won't chance and that it needs to be decided how the funds will be allocated. He stated that legislators probably will not be back in session until November.

**IDNR** No report was given.

**Illinois Forestry Association** Dave Gillespie gave a history of IFA. He stated that it was formed in 2005 and starting accepting members in 2006. There are currently 900 members statewide. He stated that we came very close to losing the Mason State Tree Nursery last year. The Mason State Tree Nursery now has prairie plants, forbs and pollinator species available. There are 4 million acres of forest land in Illinois and the IFA is working to get DNR funds to write forestry plans.

**FSA** Rick Graden stated that the 2014 Farm Bill reduced the number of acres for general CRP. August 1 is the deadline for ARC-PLC signatures and is also the deadline to make nominations for county committee. He stated that FSA is completely staffed up. FSA is developing a web-based program called "Bridges to Opportunity". They are building a database of all USDA agencies so that people can call FSA and get the agency name and number of who they need to call for any particular issue.

**Illinois Forestry Development Council** Bill Gradle reported that his agency applied and was approved for RCPP. There will be 2 million dollars available over a 5-year period and sign up

will begin in January 2017. There is still no information on the ranking and criteria for people with old hickory stands.

**Illinois Fertilizer and Chemical** Jean Payne reported that they have started a campaign entitled “Keep it for the Crops”. She stated that Illinois is an island surrounded by states that have been bombarded with regulations which makes it important that we do all we can to prevent these from being imposed here. They are working to provide 4-R certification for all fertilizer salespeople.

At 2:45 p.m. President Kirby called for a short break. The meeting resumed at 2:57 p.m.

### **Second Roll Call by Van Bitner**

Present were the following counties for the 2<sup>nd</sup> roll call: Bond, Brown, Calhoun, Carroll, Cass, Champaign, Christian, Clark, Clinton, Crawford, Cumberland, DeKalb, Dewitt, Douglas, Edgar, Effingham, Fayette, Ford, Franklin, Greene, Grundy, Hancock, Henderson, Henry, Iroquois, Jackson, Jasper, JoDaviess, Kane-Dupage, Knox, LaSalle, Lawrence, Lee, Livingston, Logan, Macon, Macoupin, Madison, Marion, Marshall-Putnam, Mason, McDonough, McHenry-Lake, Mercer, Montgomery, Morgan, Moultrie, North Cook, Peoria, Perry, Piatt, Pulaski-Alexander, Richland, Rock Island, St. Clair, Saline, Sangamon, Schuyler, Stark, Stephenson, Tazewell, Union, Vermillion, Warren, Washington, Wayne, White, Whiteside, Will-South Cook, Williamson, Winnebago, Woodford. Van Bitner reported there was a quorum present.

**Resolutions** Vice-President Tom Beyers announced that the Resolutions are found on pages 50-62 in the Voting Delegate packet. Since everybody present had ample time to review the proposed resolutions ahead of time, Vice-President Beyers proposed to read only the “therefore portion” which was done for each of the following proposed resolutions.

- **AISWCD Resolution 2016-1 – AISWCD Insurance Package Policy.** Discussion: Vice-President Beyers recognized that in the June Quarterly Board Meeting, the authoring county stated it would like to amend the resolution by striking “*R.W. Troxell*” from the final paragraph. **A motion was made by Crawford County and seconded by Lawrence County to approve Resolution 2016-1 as amended. Vice-President Beyers asked for a show of cards to approve the resolution as amended. All cards voted “yes” and Resolution 2016-1 passed as amended.**
- **AISWCD Resolution 2016-2 - SWCD Dedicated Funding Source.** Discussion: Vice-President Beyers recognized DeKalb County who was stated they would like to amend the resolution by striking “*one-tenth of one percent*” from the final paragraph. **A motion was made by Piatt County and seconded by Henderson County to approve Resolution 2016-2 as submitted with no amendments. Vice President Beyers asked for a show of cards to approve the resolution. 54 “Yes” cards were shown and 16 “No” cards were shown and Resolution 2016-2 passed.**
- **AISWCD Resolution 2016-3, Resolution in Support of the Bond County SWCD.** Discussion: Vice-President Beyers recognized Bond County who requested to withdraw the resolution. **Resolution 2016-3 was withdrawn.**
- **AISWCD Resolution 2016-4 – Resolution to Include Transparency Within AISWCD Policies.** Discussion: Vice-President Beyers recognized Kane-Dupage County who stated this resolution was brought forth because SWCD employees were not allowed to attend

some meetings of the AISWCD. Vice-President Beyers recognized Will-South Cook County who stated that new leadership within the AISWCD is needed. Vice-President Beyers recognized Washington County who stated that this resolution is nebulous and not needed for SWCD's to function. **A motion was made by Kane-DuPage and seconded by Henderson County to approve Resolution 2016-4. Vice President Beyers asked for a show of cards to approve the resolution. 31 "Yes" cards were shown and 34 "No" cards were shown. The resolution failed.**

- AISWCD Resolution 2016-5 – Resolution to Update AISWCD Dues Formula to Exclude Employee Health Insurance. Discussion: Vice-President Beyers recognized Montgomery County who stated that if SWCDs are going to pay employees' health insurance premiums that it will have to come out of operations funding and they don't think that AISWCD dues should be calculated on amounts paid for health insurance. Vice-President Beyers recognized Melissa Cauble, SWCD Insurance Administrator, who clarified that in previous years, employees' health insurance premiums were deducted and placed in a special fund prior to operational funds being distributed to districts. Districts' AISWCD dues did not include insurance premium funds. Vice-President Beyers recognized Warren County stated that the AISWCD Board of Directors will set the dues for next year and that 3% has become the default amount since 2002. **A motion was made by Henderson County and seconded by Christian County to approve Resolution 2016-5. Vice President Beyers asked for a show of cards to approve the resolution. 24 "Yes" cards were shown and 43 "No" cards were shown. The resolution failed.**
- AISWCD Resolution 2016-6 – Resolution to Eliminate the Dues Requirements for Participation with Contribution Sub-Agreements. Discussion: Vice-President Beyers recognized Montgomery County who stated they would like to amend the resolution by striking "*as it presents a financial hardship on those districts who would have minimal gain from said agreement*" from the final paragraph. **A motion was made by LaSalle County and seconded by Dekalb County to approve Resolution 2016-6 as amended. Vice-President Beyers asked for a show of cards to approve the resolution as amended. 35 "Yes" cards were shown and 33 "No" cards were shown. The resolution passed.**
- AISWCD Resolution 2016-7 – No Confidence in the Current AISWCD President and Executive Director. Discussion: Vice-President Beyers recognized Iroquois County who stated that this resolution is not necessary and there is a voting process to be followed. Vice-President Beyers recognized Myron Kirby who stated that he found it difficult to not take this personally and that he, the other AISWCD Board of Directors and AISWCD Staff have all been working for the benefit of districts. Vice-President Beyers recognized Greene County who stated that this resolution was not a personal attack on anybody. Vice-President Beyers recognized Washington County who stated they support the AISWCD Board. Vice-President Beyers recognized Will-South Cook who stated that it was the SWCD employees that made inclusion in the "stop-gap" budget happen and not the AISWCD. Vice-President Beyers recognized Warren County who requested that the resolution be withdrawn. **A motion was made by Greene County and seconded by Will-South Cook County to approve Resolution 2016-7. Vice President Beyers asked for a show of cards to approve the resolution. 12 "Yes" cards were shown and 56 "No" cards were shown. The resolution failed.**

- AISWCD Resolution 2016-8. Discussion: Vice-President Beyers recognized Effingham County who requested to withdraw the resolution. **Resolution 2016-8 was withdrawn.**

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Resolution/Policy Book. An updated copy was available at each table and there is no action to be taken this.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

New Resolutions to Come Before the Voting Delegate Body. There were none.

NLRS Update. There have been over 50 meetings statewide this year.

NRCS Assistance and CRP Agreement. Reports and vouchers for NRCS Administrative Assistance are due on the 5<sup>th</sup> of the month. The workload tiers (high, medium, low) were determined by a map received from Illinois State Conservationist, Ivan Dozier. The AISWCD is still waiting on approval from the NRCS federal level prior to sending out the signed CRP Contribution Agreements.

State Budget Update. President Kirby stated we knew at last year's annual meeting that it was going to be bleak for districts. Last fall, AISWCD board members, SWCD directors and AISWCD staff met with the Lieutenant Governor's Office and got them to understand that soil and water conservation districts are not the same as drainage districts. He stated that districts are probably going to have tiered payments. Lawrence County was recognized from the floor and stated that when determining the tier structure, the number of PFC dollars spent should be considered and not just the number of PFC contracts.

Election of Officers. Terry Davis stated that there are two candidates for President and invited both to make a statement to the voting delegates. Steve Stierwalt stated that he does not want to cut the number of districts or the amount of money going to districts. He believes his strong relationship with Farm Bureau would be an asset. Myron Kirby stated that he has worked very hard for districts the past two years and feels like progress is finally being made but he would like the opportunity to finish what has been started. Ballots were handed to each voting delegate. Ballots were collected and counted. **By a majority of the vote, Steve Stierwalt was elected as President of the AISWCD.**

Tom Beyers was presented as candidate for Vice-President. Terry Davis asked three times if there were any nominations from the floor. None were made so he asked for a motion to elect Tom Beyers as Vice-President of the AISWCD. **A motion was made by Livingston County and seconded by Christian County to elect Tom Beyers as Vice-President. Motion carried.**

Van Bitner was presented as candidate for Secretary. Terry Davis asked three times if there were any nominations from the floor. None were made so he asked for a motion to elect Van Bitner as Secretary of the AISWCD. **A motion was made by Piatt County and seconded by Logan County to elect Van Bitner as Secretary. Motion carried.**

Dan Duval was presented as candidate for Treasurer. Terry Davis asked three times if there were any nominations from the floor. None were made so he asked for a motion to elect Dan Duval as Treasurer to the AISWCD. **A motion was made by Iroquois County and seconded by Peoria County to elect Dan Duval as Treasurer. Motion carried.**

**Area Vice-Presidents and Alternates Elections.** Vice-President Beyers stated that Area 2 and Area 4 need to select their Area Vice-President and Alternate. Additionally, with the election of Steve Stierwalt as AISWCD President, Area 3 also needs to select an Area Vice-President and Alternate. Results were as follows:

- Area 2: Area Vice-President, David McCormick – Alternate, John Winkleman
- Area 4: Area Vice President, Steve Fulling, Alternate, Greg Dickey
- Area 3: Area Vice-President, Kenny Hawthorn – Alternate, Curt Clapper

**Confirmation** A motion to confirm the elected AISWCD Board of Directors, Area Vice-Presidents and Area Alternates was made by Henderson County and Seconded by Montgomery County. Motion carried.

#### **Officers Reports.**

President Myron Kirby stated that he could be called upon at any time if his assistance is needed.

Vice-President Tom Beyers thanked everybody for their support.

Treasurer, no report.

Secretary Van Bitner thanked everybody for their support and congratulated Steve Stierwalt.

Executive Director Kelly Thompson, gave a brief year in review summary.

#### **Comments from Focus Area Committee/Taskforce Chairpersons**

Communications, Steve Stierwalt, no comment.

Education, Jerry Snodgrass, no comment.

Executive Committee, Myron Kirby, no comment.

Financial Management, no comment.

Forestry, David McCormick, no comment.

Legislative, Tom Beyers, thanks everybody for their attendance at Legislative Day in March.

Planning, Van Bitner, no comment.

Urban Community & Conservation, Jerry Snodgrass, no comment.

Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy, no comment.

#### **Financial Report**

**Membership Dues.** Kelly Thompson, AISWCD Executive Director reported that all districts are in good standing.

**Acceptance of 2015 Audit.** The voting delegate from Will-South Cook expressed confusion about reading the audit. Kelly Thompson gave a brief explanation. **A motion was made by Piatt County and seconded by Henderson County to approve the 2015 audit. Motion carried.**

**2017 Proposed AISWCD Budget.** Kelly Thompson, AISWCD Executive Director pointed out that most of the information on the budget handout pertained to pass-through funds such as liability, Farm Progress Show, etc.

**Adjournment**

**A motion to adjourn was made by Stevenson County and seconded Piatt County. Motion carried and the new President Steve Stierwalt adjourned the meeting at 4:55 p.m.**

Minutes submitted by: Amy Ishmael, R.C., Mason County SWCD, and Kaila Long, A.C., AISWCD