

**Planning Focus Area Committee
Meeting Minutes
March 13, 2017 at 1:00 pm
Northfield Inn, Springfield, IL**

Members/Advisors

Present:

Judy Beyers, Auxiliary
Van Bitner, Chairman
Colleen Bogner, Auxiliary
Gene Barickman, NRCS
Terry Davis
Dale Shumaker, Director

Guests/Advisors Present:

Kody Aldrich, Director
Melissa Cauble
Sue Davis
Spring Duffey
Kaila Long, AISWCD
Renae Nicholson, NRCS
Kelly Thompson, AISWCD

Absent:

Tom Beyers
Marie Bunting, Auxiliary
Steve Fulling, Director
David McCormick, Director
Marty McManus, IDOA
Cindy Moon

Van Bitner called the meeting to order at 1:03pm.

A motion was made to approve the agenda:

1st Terry Davis 2nd Dale Shumaker **Motion passed**

A motion was made to approve December 2016 minutes with the following changes: Renee Nickleson should be spelled Renae Nicholson.

1st Judy Beyers 2nd Terry Davis **Motion passed**

Van Bitner gave a recap of the task force meeting and a motion was made to approve January 2017 Taskforce minutes:

1st Terry Davis 2nd Judy Beyers **Motion passed**

Old Business

Farm Family Award – Van Bitner reminded the committee that we have the Governor’s seal of approval for this award in 2017.

New Business

Partner Reports – NRCS Training Session –Gene Barickman and Renae Nickleson, NRCS, provided more information on a NRCS programs and the proposed Nutrient Management joint training session for the Summer Conference.

- Gene Barickman shared that SWCDs are a part of the Conservation Planning Project that NRCS is working on. He shared that in order to work with landowners for this project, NRCS will require employees and District employees to be at the Apprentice level or be a Certified Conservation Planner through Aglearn.
- Renae Nickleson shared that in January the training pre-requisites changed for the course they are offering at Summer Conference. She sent Spring Duffey the updated prerequisites

in January for distribution. She shared that she has heard from 8 SWCD employees that they will be able to take this pre-requisite training in April. Spring Duffey shared that it has been hard for employees to take the training in April when it is usually the busiest month. She suggested working together next year to see if the pre-requisites can be offered in March or May.

Session Update – Kaila Long shared that she has been in contact with many potential presenters for the sessions at the Summer Conference but that she has been waiting to hear back from them. She passed around a handout showcasing the potential sessions she has been looking into. Kelly Thompson gave an update on the IDOA session, Spring Duffey gave an update on the ISWCDEA session, and Judy Beyers gave an update on the Auxiliary Session.

- AISWCD is waiting to hear back from their contacts on sessions for Grant Writing, CARS/GATA, NLRs, Pollinators, and Understanding the Legislative Process.
- AISWCD will also host a session on Strategic Planning.
- NRCS will host a Nutrient Management Workshop and a Director Training Session.
- The Department of Agriculture will host a Conservation Cropping Session.
- The Auxiliary will host a Master Gardeners session on Terrariums.
- ISWCDEA will host a Round Table Session opposite of the Director's Forum.

Sunday Tour Update –Kaila Long presented on three potential options for the Sunday tour. Kelly Thompson also suggested Lincoln Memorial gardens, and Van Bitner proposed going back to the arboretum as another option, but the group was still uncertain about those ideas. AISWCD will continue to look into other Sunday tour options.

Registration Update – The committee reviewed the proposed registration form and approved the cost levels for one day registrations. AISWCD will send this form out via IL ALL and make it available online by April 3rd, 2017.

Opening Ceremony/ District Spotlight – Kaila Long reported that Sen. Duckworth's office has turned down the request to speak at the opening ceremony. The committee decided that AISWCD should look into finding another relatively cheap speaker for this Ceremony.

The committee also discussed adjusting the way District Spotlights are presented. The group would like to get away from using multiple slideshow presentations. Proposed ideas included: using the leftover presentations IDOA had from Winter Training, showing a short documentary on soils and presenting an overview of how SWCDs fit in, creating one comprehensive slideshow with pictures of projects and training sessions from SWCDs, or creating a District DVD with 2-3 pictures per District and a brief 10 minute narrative from AISWCD about the work Districts are doing.

Award Sponsors – Kaila Long reported that all of the award sponsors from last year have been contacted and will be providing the same awards as last year.

Exhibit Hall – the committee agreed that this should be in a stand-alone room where we keep the coffee and tea. The committee also liked the idea of having the silent auction in the same room if this is possible. The committee did not like having the Exhibit Hall in the Onyx room two years ago and suggested finding a room closer to the main area. AISWCD will look into using the Jade or Crystal room as a potential Exhibit hall space.

Auction Items – the committee discussed the merits of having bingo and a silent auction as opposed to a live auction. The group agreed to pursue this further and look into making the bingo portion more profitable. Some suggestions for this included: off-site bingo, heads or tails, including bingo purchase opportunities on registration packets, and asking Pheasants Forever for suggestions on mini-games, and having a board with bingo numbers on it by the registration tables. AISWCD will research whether or not a board with bingo numbers on it will require a permit. Judy Beyers volunteered herself and Tom Beyers to help out with the bingo at the Annual Meeting.

State Fair Twilight Parade – the committee decided to discuss this at the June Quarterly Board meeting.

2018 Annual Meeting Location – the committee discussed the possibility moving the July 2018 annual meeting to another central IL location. The group discussed that while there would only be a slim chance we would actually move the location, it might be nice to get bids for a new venue to see what kind of deals we can get. The committee approved for Kaila and Kelly to look into obtaining bids from the Wyndham in Springfield and the hotel in Peoria near the mall.

Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 2:22pm.

1st Terry Davis 2nd Van Bitner **Motion passed**

Minutes by: Kaila Long, AISWCD