



# AISWCD



ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

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**71<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting**  
**Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts**  
**July 16, 2019 | Crowne Plaza Hotel | Springfield, Illinois**

## **CALL TO ORDER**

The Annual Meeting was called to order at 1:06 p.m. by President Steve Stierwalt.

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice-Chairman Tom Beyers.

## **ROLL CALL**

Roll Call was taken by Secretary Dale Shumaker; a quorum was reached for the meeting (See roll at end of document).

## **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

A motion was made by Iroquois and seconded by Stephenson to approve the agenda as presented, motion carried.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Lee and seconded by Livingston to approve the agenda as presented, motion carried.

## **INTRODUCTIONS**

President Stierwalt introduced the following:

### **AISWCD OFFICERS:**

President Steve Stierwalt  
Vice President Tom Beyers  
Secretary Dale Shumaker  
Treasurer Dan Duval

### **AISWCD STAFF**

Grant Hammer, Executive Director  
Sarah Jones, Grants Manager

Rebecca Osland, (Incoming) Grants Manager  
Alan Howard, Financial Manager

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

President Steve Stierwalt talked about how Districts want to be known for what they do and what they accomplish. Conservation is local and SWCD's have the opportunity to lead; Districts can bring all groups together to be effective. This year, we have a new logo, strong lobbying effort, worked on stable funding, and we are working on re-instating paid health insurance for employees which is very important to continue working on again this next year. Steve thinks we have a real presence at the Capitol with Grant Hammer as our Executive Director. Steve reported that he is hoping to step up the game with the Foundation and developing leadership this coming year.

## **PARTNER REPORTS**

IEPA - Chris Davis reported she is the new manager of the Watershed Section. She discussed implementing NLRs, a conference they are having in early December, new standards they are working on. She discussed the 319 & 604 Grant Program with SWCD's and general permits for private septic systems.

IDNR - Michelle Bloomquist, the new CREP Manager discussed the CREP Program. She still is working on hiring a Coordinator and an Administrative Person; they do still have a GIS person. She is working on getting CREP going again, she has been dealing with many issues such as violations, etc. Michelle said to contact her by email with any issues that a county may have with CREP. She will be working with counties soon to do contracts again.

NRCS - State Conservationist Ivan Dozier introduced his leadership team that attended Summer Conference this year. There is 3 months until the end of Fiscal Year 2019 and they are still working on rules for the 2018 Farm Bill as they are still working on the interim rules. The final rules should come out in 2020. Ivan discussed EQIP, there was \$24 million requested and only half funded. For CSP, the Farm Bill changed it from acreage based to dollar based program. Toolkit for conservation planning will go away soon and we will have Conservation Desktop; it will have CART which is a new Ranking Tool. There will be Training Sessions for all on Conservation Desktop. Ivan discussed staffing for the state, there have been 3 District Conservationists and 3 Production Soil Conservationist Technicians filled recently in the state. He thanked the Directors and Staff for the Partnership with NRCS.

Illinois Farm Service Agency – Bill Graff, State FSA Executive Director gave the report. Bill said he appreciates the partnership with districts. Continuous CRP is ongoing right now. Regular CRP is later this year. Federal CREP – Not sure when there will be a sign-up. If anyone is having financial difficulty, they should talk to FSA now for next year. He also touched on staffing in offices. Some offices will be part-time offices.

ISWCDEA – Rich Stewart, ISWCDEA Co-Chair gave the report. Rich state he appreciated the partnership district employees have with NRCS, AISWCD, etc. He touched on the training needs inventory and stated he was appreciative of NRCS assistance, CRP Contribution Agreements. Rich also reported Centrix was discussed during the employee session.

AISWCD Auxiliary – Judy Beyers, President gave the report. Judy reported the 2020 theme for poster and photo contests would be, "Where Would We Bee Without Pollinators." Judy thanked directors for their

support. Linda Shumaker will attend the National Summer Conference in Santa Fe the first week in August. Judy will attend the Annual Meeting in Las Vegas early 2020.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Education – Jerry Snodgrass gave the report. Jerry talked about the awards. He encouraged people to apply for Teacher of the Year awards. Jerry also explained changes in qualifications for the McKibben Scholarship. He went through the history with the Farm Family award and application. The Education Committee would like to see an entry for the Farm Family for each council.

Executive – Steve Stierwalt reported the Executive Committee have been trying to meet by Zoom monthly except for when crops were being put in.

Financial Management – Dan Duval, AISWCD Treasurer was not present. Alan Howard presented the financial report.

Legislative – Tom Beyers reported. He went over resolutions. Tom reminded directors of the weekly newsletter that Grant Hammer sends out through email. He also updated directors on the District Act being opened and Legislative Day.

Planning – Dale Shumaker and Grant Hammer gave the report. Dale reported it had been a busy year, and went over the planning process for the Annual Meeting. AISWCD anticipates getting a survey out soon regarding this year's conference.

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT**

Grant Hammer gave his report. He stated it had been a pleasure to work for the Association for the last 14 months. He also reported on Steve Chard, former Bureau Chief at the Department of Agriculture, being added to the Association staff part time as a Special Projects Manager. Steve is in charge of the Soil Health and Cover Crop Workshops. Alan Howard is employed by the AISWCD on a contractual basis for accounting purposes. Grant introduced Rebecca Osland, who will be replacing Sarah Jones in August. Grant talked briefly about the Mission of the AISWCD. The relationships with the partners are strong. He reiterated now is a time for optimism. Grant asked that districts let the AISWCD know of any media events and went over the accomplishments of the last year.

### **SECOND ROLL CALL**

A second roll call was taken by Dale Shumaker.

### **RESOLUTIONS**

Before going over resolutions, Tom Beyers reported that the June Quarterly Board meeting did not have a quorum. There were a few things the directors present acted on that could not wait, such as Friend of Conservation Award, etc. Tom reported that at the next board meeting, those actions will be ratified. He then went over Resolutions. Resolutions were treated as coming from the floor, since there was not a quorum to vote on them at June 2019 Quarterly Board (Body has to take 75% vote to take off the floor and bring up for vote).

Motion by Livingston, second by Iroquois to bring all four resolutions up to the floor. The motion carried.

**2019 – 1** – Peoria County made a motion to amend the resolution to read 'Annual' instead of biannual. Second by Pulaski-Alexander. Motion carried. The resolution was presented as amended. Unanimously approved.

**2019 – 2** – Montgomery County made a motion, seconded by Piatt to bring the resolution to the floor. Motion carried. Resolution was brought forward for discussion. There were no pro comments. A con comment in opposition to the survey was made by DeWitt and Vermilion. Livingston County made a motion to call for the vote. Resolution passed.

**2019 – 3** – Motion was made by Edgar, second by Bond to bring to the floor. Discussion was held. Resolution passed.

**2019 – 4** – Motion was made by Piatt, second by Effingham to bring to the floor. Opened for discussion. Resolution passed.

## **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

The President is elected every two years; therefore Steve Stierwalt has another year before his term expires. There were no nominations for the following officers from the floor.

The slate of officers for next year were as follows:

Vice President – Tom Beyers – Motion to approve Ford, second Stephenson  
Secretary – Dale Shumaker – Motion to approve Livingston, second Peoria  
Treasurer – Dan Duval – Motion to approve Montgomery, second Warren

DeWitt County made a motion to approve the slate, seconded by Stephenson County. Motion carried.

The following Area Vice-Presidents were approved:

Area 1 – Jerry Snodgrass; Alternate – Chuck Handley  
Area 3 – Kenny Hawthorne; Alternate – Eric Miller

There was a motion by Stephenson, second by Richland to adjourn the 2019 AISWCD Annual Meeting. Meeting adjourned at 2:47 pm.

## **MINUTES TAKEN BY**

Cindy Moon & Sue Davis

**AISWCD & FOUNDATION ANNUAL MEETING ATTENDANCE:**

COUNTY	PRESENT 1ST ROLL CALL	PRESENT 2ND ROLL CALL	FOUNDATION PRESENT	NOT PRESENT
Adams				✓
Bond	✓	✓	✓	
Boone				✓
Brown	✓	✓	✓	
Bureau				✓
Calhoun	✓	✓	✓	
Carroll				✓
Cass				✓
Champaign		✓	✓	
Christian	✓	✓	✓	
Clark	✓	✓		✓
Clay				✓
Clinton	✓	✓	✓	
Coles	✓	✓	✓	
Crawford	✓	✓	✓	
Cumberland	✓	✓	✓	
Dekalb	✓	✓	✓	
Dewitt	✓	✓	✓	
Douglas				✓
Edgar	✓	✓	✓	
Edwards				✓
Effingham	✓	✓	✓	
Fayette				✓
Ford	✓	✓	✓	
Franklin				✓
Fulton				✓
Gallatin				✓
Greene	✓	✓	✓	
Grundy				✓
Hamilton				✓
Hancock	✓	✓	✓	
Henderson	✓	✓	✓	
Henry	✓	✓	✓	
Iroquois	✓	✓	✓	
Jackson	✓	✓	✓	
Jasper				✓

Jefferson				✓
Jersey				✓
JoDaviess	✓	✓	✓	
Johnson				✓
Kane/DuPage	✓	✓	✓	
Kankakee	✓	✓		
Kendall	✓	✓		
Knox				✓
Lasalle				✓
Lawrence				✓
Lee	✓	✓		
Livingston	✓	✓		
Logan	✓	✓	✓	
Macon				✓
Macoupin	✓	✓	✓	
Madison	✓	✓	✓	
Marion	✓	✓	✓	
Marshall/Putnam	✓	✓	✓	
Mason	✓	✓	✓	
Massac				✓
McDonough	✓	✓	✓	
McHenry/Lake				✓
McLean	✓	✓	✓	
Menard				✓
Mercer				✓
Monroe				✓
Montgomery	✓	✓	✓	
Morgan				✓
Moultrie				✓
North Cook				✓
Ogle	✓	✓	✓	
Peoria	✓	✓	✓	
Perry				✓
Piatt	✓	✓	✓	
Pike				✓
Pope-Hardon				✓
Pulaski/Alexander	✓	✓	✓	
Randolph				✓
Richland	✓	✓	✓	
Rock Island	✓	✓	✓	
St. Clair				✓
Saline	✓	✓	✓	
Sangamon	✓	✓	✓	

Schuyler				✓
Scott				✓
Shelby				✓
Stark	✓	✓	✓	
Stephenson	✓	✓	✓	
Tazewell	✓	✓	✓	
Union	✓	✓	✓	
Vermillion	✓	✓	✓	
Wabash				✓
Warren		✓	✓	
Washington	✓	✓	✓	
Wayne	✓	✓	✓	
White	✓	✓	✓	
Whiteside	✓	✓	✓	
Will/South Cook				✓
Williamson	✓	✓		
Winnebago	✓	✓	✓	
Woodford	✓	✓	✓	