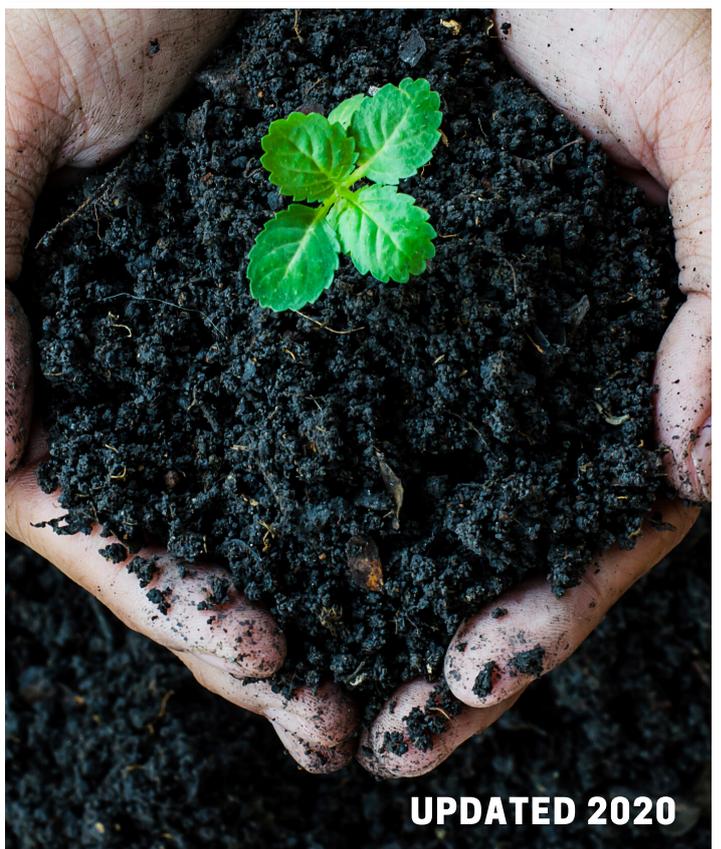
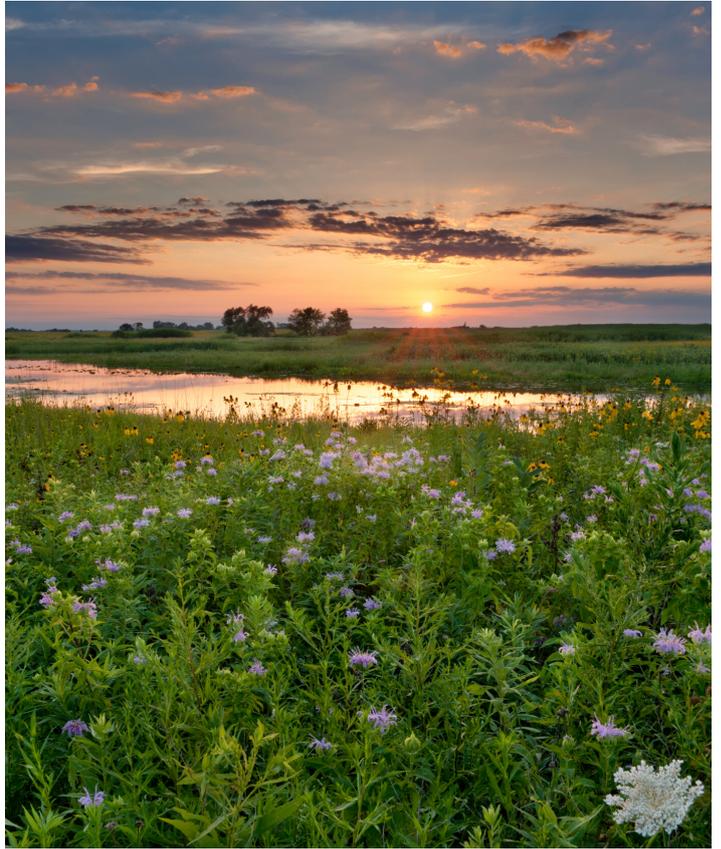




RESOLUTIONS, POLICIES, AND PROCEDURES MANUAL



UPDATED 2020

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RESOLUTIONS

This Resolutions, Policy and Procedures Manual contains resolutions that have been addressed by the Delegate Voting Body (Voting Body) of the Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Resolutions passed by the Voting Body prior to 2004 are unable to be located and are presumed lost.

With the adoption of the By-Law change, 2014-1, resolutions that have passed in previous years but that are deemed no longer pertinent to the operations of the AISWCD, shall be brought before the Voting Body at the earliest opportunity and shall be subject to a vote of the Voting Body as to whether they shall remain in this book or be removed and not be subjected to further action.

WELCOME

TO: AISWCD MEMBERS, BOARD OF DIRECTORS, AND STAFF

Welcome to the Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts (AISWCD). This Resolutions, Policy, and Procedures Manual will introduce you to the governance and operation of the association. The AISWCD is a not-for-profit 501(c)(4) organization. We encourage the reader to make reference to the association's strategic plan to get a better understanding of the diversity and magnitude of the mission, vision, goals and services of this association. Please visit our website at aiswcd.org for more information.

The Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts is a nonprofit service, education, training, and advocacy organization that serves Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs). The association advances these agencies, their citizen board members and professional staff in their ability to provide outstanding conservation delivery services to the public and to preserve the natural resources of Illinois.

As a leader in conservation, AISWCD will provide superb association services to its members. We will achieve our vision by:

- Strengthening our alliances with traditional agricultural and environmental stakeholders throughout Illinois and the nation.
- Maintaining a strong relationship with state and national governmental leaders.
- Identifying grants and pursuing and funding streams for our members.
- Assisting our members in their ability to meet conservation and natural resource challenges
- Helping our member districts thrive.

Our organizational strengths will include the creation and delivery of:

- Citizen advocacy initiatives that direct and draw on the power of individuals and member districts to educate policymakers on issues of vital importance to the mission of Soil and Water Conservation Districts.
- Educational opportunities and materials such as an annual summer training conference, printed publications, newsletters, social media, and a dynamic association website.
- Public awareness efforts designed to enhance and elevate the visibility of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, while also demonstrating their value to the communities and state they serve.

The AISWCD will continue to achieve these results in a fiscally responsible manner that assures the association's viability and provides for the long-term financial health of the organization, while offering the most benefit and value as possible to membership.

The AISWCD offers specialized programs and activities designed to maximize our members' resources and advance their missions, goals and objectives. AISWCD's core service areas include:

- Advocacy
- Education and Training
- Public Awareness
- Partnerships
- Resources
- Publications
- Insurance
- Grants
- Legal/Legislative Services

THE PAST...

In the early 1930s, along with the greatest depression this nation ever experienced, came an equally unparalleled ecological disaster known as the Dust Bowl. Following a severe and sustained drought in the Great Plains, the region's soil began to erode and blow away, creating huge black dust storms that blotted out the sun and swallowed the countryside. Thousands of "dust refugees" left the black fog to seek better lives. But the storms stretched across the nation. They reached south to Texas and east to New York. Dust even sifted into the White House and onto the desk of President Franklin D. Roosevelt. On Capitol Hill, while testifying about the erosion problem, soil scientist Hugh Hammond Bennett threw back the curtains to reveal a sky blackened by dust. Congress unanimously passed legislation declaring soil and water conservation a national policy and priority. Since about three-fourths of the continental United States is privately owned, Congress realized that only active, voluntary support from landowners would guarantee the success of conservation work on private land. In 1937, President Roosevelt wrote the governors of all the states recommending legislation that would allow local landowners to form soil conservation districts. The Illinois Soil and Water Conservation District Act was passed by the Illinois General Assembly in 1937 noting it to be in the public interest to "Provide for the conservation of soil, soil resources, water, and water resources of this state and to thereby to conserve natural resources." The Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts would later be established in 1948.

THE FUTURE...

The association is a vehicle to bring together all the Soil and Water Conservation Districts concerned with the advancement of the principles of soil and water conservation and the protection of natural resources.

The challenges are many and varied. We must continue our efforts to monitor and develop state and federal legislation affecting the conservation of our natural resources. We will need to be innovative to effectively address the many and ever-changing natural resource challenges.

How the association will fare in the future will largely depend to an extent on how well we work together in a common interest...in this association!

Sincerely,



Grant Hammer
Executive Director

AISWCD OVERVIEW

ABOUT

The Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts (AISWCD) is the voice for Illinois' Soil and Water Conservation Districts. We are dedicated to helping our members thrive through advocacy, education, training, and public awareness.

MISSION STATEMENT

To represent and empower Illinois' Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

MANTRA

AISWCD supports the mantra "Clean water, healthy soils."

OVERVIEW

The Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts is a grass roots organization formed in 1948. It is made up and serves Illinois' 97-member Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs). Soil and Water Conservation Districts work to protect Illinois' greatest assets – the rich, fertile soils and water resources of the state through strategic conservation efforts. SWCDs, working in conjunction with agricultural as well as environmental stakeholders, have for decades over played a central role in efforts to protect and sustain the viability of Illinois' finite natural resources for future generations.

AISWCD BY-LAWS

ARTICLE #1 | AUTHORITY – PURPOSE – POWER – PLACE OF BUSINESS – MEMBERSHIP – DUES

Section #1: Authority.

The final authority in the direction and control of the affairs of this Association shall rest in the membership. All Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts are eligible to be members of this organization.

Section #2: Purposes.

The purposes of the Association are stated in the constitution and policies of the Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts, including to advance the conservation and orderly development, management, improvement, and multiple use of natural resources of the State of Illinois through serving Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

In accordance with Internal Revenue Code (hereinafter I.R.C.) 501(c) (4), the Association is not organized for profit, but operated exclusively for the promotion of social welfare and the net earnings of which are devoted exclusively to charitable, educational, or recreational purposes.

No part of the net earnings of the Association shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, directors, officers, employees, or other private persons, except that the Association shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth herein.

Income for each taxable year will be distributed at such time and in such manner as not to subject the Association to tax under I.R.C. 4942, and the Association shall not engage in any act of self-dealing as defined in I.R.C. 4941 (d), or retain any excess business holdings as defined in I.R.C. 4943 (c), or make any investments in such manner as to subject the Association to tax under I.R.C. 4944 and make any taxable expenditures defined in I.R.C. 4945 (d).

Upon dissolution and in accordance with Article 6, Section 2 below, any assets remaining after all expenses and obligations are fully satisfied, shall be distributed evenly to the eligible member Soil and Water Conservation Districts formed under 70 ILCS 405/1 in good standing at time of dissolution.

Section #3: Power.

The State Association shall have power to employ such personnel and to acquire and own such equipment as may be necessary for carrying out the objectives of the Association. The Association shall represent the Soil and Water Conservation Districts in the State of Illinois. The Association Board shall elect a board member and alternate to the National Association of Conservation Districts. The NACD Board member and Alternate shall be an elected director from a District in good standing. The Association shall have the power to enter into agreement with interested groups and agencies as may be necessary to carry out the purpose and objectives of the organization.

Section #4: Offices.

The Association shall have and continuously maintain in this State a registered office and a registered agent whose office is identical with such registered office, and shall have other offices within or without the State of Illinois as the Board of Directors may from time to time determine.

Section #5: Membership.

The membership of the Association shall consist of two (2) classifications.

- A. Active Voting Members: Shall be the Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Illinois, whose dues have been paid in full for the previous 365 days (subject to Article 1 Section 6, B) which qualifies them to be a district in good standing. Each shall be represented by one delegate and one alternate current director appointed by the District governing body. Each District shall have one vote. A district in good standing shall have privileges of being represented by the Association and directors able to hold office, vote in Association matters, and participate in Association programs.
- B. Affiliate Members: Affiliate Members of the Association shall consist of any individual, company, corporation or agency interested in supporting, financially or through active participation, the conservation, improvement, management, and multiple use of the natural resources of the State of Illinois.

Section #6: Dues.

The dues of the Association shall be paid in full annually by January 1.

- A. Active Voting Member: Shall be the Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Illinois, whose dues have been paid in full within 45 days after receipt of invoice.
- B. Dues Deadline Variance: The dues payment deadline may be extended by the President with concurrence of the Executive Committee for a named, definite period of time due to extenuating circumstances.

ARTICLE #2 | DELEGATE MEETINGS – VOTING PRIVILEGES – QUALIFICATIONS - QUORUM

Section #1: Annual Meeting.

The Annual Meeting of the members of the Association shall be held at such time and place as may be designated by the Board of Directors of the Association. The Secretary shall send or have sent written notice to all members at least 30 days prior to the date set. Notice shall state time and place and shall include notice of special business that is to be presented over and above the ordinary or regular business.

Section #2: Special Meetings.

Special meetings may be called at any time by the President or a majority of the Board of Directors or upon written request of one-third of the active voting members of this Association. Notice of special meetings and shall be given to all board members and shall provide sufficient time to allow for any necessary preparation and travel to attend the meeting. No business may be transacted at a special meeting other than that stated in the call. Such special meetings may take place in person or, at the discretion of the president or of the majority of the board, by conference call.

Section #3: Voting Privileges.

Voting privileges of this Association shall be vested in delegates qualifying under the classification of Active Voting Members as outlined in Article #1, Section 5, A.

Section #4: Qualifications.

The qualification for voting delegates shall be that they must be District Directors appointed by a District Governing Body.

Section #5: Quorum.

A majority of the Active Voting Delegates shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any regular or special meeting of the members. In the absence of a legal quorum, those present may conduct the business of the Association, with all actions so taken being subject to approval by the delegate body at a time when a quorum is declared.

Section #6: Resolutions.

Resolutions to be brought before the Annual Meeting must be sent to the Resolutions Chairperson (see Article 5, Section 2 c), before the June Board Meeting prior to the Annual Meeting. Resolutions brought to the Resolution Chairperson before the June Board Meeting must receive a simple majority for passage. Resolutions not submitted to the Resolution Chairperson before the June Board Meeting must be brought before the voting delegates and receive a seventy- five percent (75%) favorable response of voting delegates present in order to bring the resolution to the floor for discussion. Following discussion these Resolutions must receive a simple majority for passage. Resolutions can be initiated by any District in good standing, Association committees, Association Board of Directors, and Councils in good standing. Councils with a majority of their Districts as active voting members shall be considered as in good standing.

Resolutions passed by the voting delegates at the annual meeting will be added to the AISWCD Resolution Book for use by the AISWCD Employees, Officers and members to further the efforts of Conservation by the AISWCD.

Section #7: Amendments of By-Laws.

By-laws may be amended, repealed or altered at the Association Annual Meeting by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the eligible districts present. At least thirty (30) days prior to the Annual Meeting, notice of the proposed amendment(s) shall be given to the membership. Amendments become effective immediately upon passage. Resolutions that deal with by-law changes shall include the Article and Section amended, repealed or altered by the resolution.

ARTICLE #3 | BOARD OF DIRECTORS – OFFICERS - EXEC COMMITTEE ORGANIZATION UNITS – PERSONNEL

Section # 1: Board of Directors.

The business, property and affairs of this Association shall be controlled by a Board of Directors composed of a Director or Alternate Director from each Council hereinafter known as Association Director or Alternate Association Director and the Executive Committee. The Association Directors or Alternate Association Directors, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Area Vice Presidents shall have voting rights, with the President only voting to break a tie. The immediate past president of the AISWCD if currently serving as a duly elected member of a governing body of an Illinois Soil and Water Conservation District in good standing, NACD Board member and Alternate, NACD Officer and President of the Auxiliary and Co-Chairs of the Illinois Soil and Water Conservation District Employees Association. elected by their body serve with voice participation but without voting rights on both the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee (Article 3, Section 1, C).

Qualification for Board of Directors: They must be duly elected and currently serving as members of a governing body of an Illinois Soil and Water Conservation District in good standing. Directors of the Association shall be confirmed at the Annual Meeting. Alternate Directors shall qualify and be elected in the same manner as Directors, and shall serve only in the case of inability of the duly elected Director. The President of the Auxiliary and Co-Chairs of the Illinois Soil and Water Conservation District Employees Association from a district in good standing shall be the only members not duly elected by an Illinois Soil and Water Conservation District.

- A. Qualification for Association Directors: Association Directors and Alternate Association Directors shall be elected by members of each respective Council prior to the Annual Meeting and their names and addresses shall be reported by the Council to the secretary of the Association two (2) weeks prior to the Annual Meeting.
- B. Executive Committee: The Executive Committee shall consist of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, four (4) Area Vice Presidents, immediate past president of the AISWCD if currently serving as a duly elected member of a governing body of an Illinois Soil and Water Conservation District in good standing, NACD Board member and Alternate, NACD Officer (when applicable), and President of the Auxiliary and Co-Chairs of the Illinois Soil and Water Conservation District Employees Association.

Executive Committee meetings may be called at any time by the President or by a majority of the Executive Committee members.

Section #2: Officers of the Association.

The officers of this Association shall be President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. The officers of the Association shall be elected by the membership.

Section #3: Organization Units.

The organization of the Association shall be composed of Soil and Water Conservation Districts in Illinois, and separate corporate bodies incorporated under an Enabling Act of the laws of the State of Illinois.

- A. For the purpose of providing representation on the Association's Board of Directors, Districts are grouped into sixteen (16) Councils with one representative from each Council elected to the Board of Directors (Article 7, Section 1).
- B. For the Purpose of coordinating the work of the Officers of the Association, the State shall be divided into four (4) Areas. An Area Vice President and an Alternate shall be nominated and elected by the active voting membership of each Area, and confirmed by the active voting membership of the Association at the Annual Meeting (Article 7, Section 2).

Section #4: Personnel of the Association.

Personnel of the Association shall consist of such personnel as needed to carry out the duties and goals of the Association.

- A. Executive Director: The Executive Committee of the Association may employ an Executive Director to serve under the direction of the President of the Association with concurrence of the Board of Directors.
- B. Association Staff: The Executive Committee and Executive Director may employ staff as needed to accomplish goals and objectives of the Association.

ARTICLE #4 | ELIGIBILITY – TERM OF OFFICE – COMPENSATION - DUTIES

Section #1: Eligibility.

- A. Eligibility for Officers: In order to become eligible for nomination and election to the Board of Directors, Officers or Executive Committee of this Association, a candidate must be a duly elected member of the governing body of a local Soil and Water Conservation District in good standing.
- B. Eligibility for Association Directors and Alternates: They must be duly elected members of a governing body of a Soil and Water Conservation District in good standing at the time they are elected. Council Directors shall be elected by respective Councils. Alternates shall serve only in the case of absence of the duly elected Director.
- C. Eligibility for Area Vice Presidents: In order to become eligible as an Area Vice President, they must be District Director in good standing and be nominated and elected by the Area membership in which their District belongs at the State Association Annual Meeting.
- D. Eligibility for Committee Membership: Only District Directors and the ISWCDEA appointed district personnel from a district in good standing shall be eligible to serve as a voting member on any of the Association committees. They shall be recommended for an appointment by the committee chairperson appointed by the President of the Association and approved by the Board of Directors of the Association.

- E. Eligibility for NACD Board member and Alternate: Board member and alternate to be elected biannually at December Quarterly Board meeting by Association Board of Directors. NACD Board members and Alternate shall come from a district in good standing. The newly elected NACD Board Member and Alternate will take office immediately upon being elected and shall serve until their replacement is elected.

Section #2: Term of Office.

The term of the President shall be for two (2) years. The president is eligible for election to a consecutive two-year term. The Vice President and the Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected annually. Should the President be unable to complete the term, the Vice President shall complete the unexpired term and is then eligible for election to 2 two-year terms as President. Newly elected officers and Directors of the Association shall take office at the conclusion of the Annual Meeting and Summer Conference activities.

- A. Term of Office for Area Vice Presidents: The term of office for Area Vice Presidents shall be two (2) years and they shall be elected by the delegate body at the Annual Meeting. Area 1 and Area 3 shall elect in the odd-numbered years, and Area 2 and Area 4 shall elect in the even-numbered years.
- B. Term of Office to the Board of Directors: An Association Director shall be elected for a two-year term. The Councils designated in Article #7 with an odd number shall elect in the odd years, and the Councils designated in Article #7 with an even number shall elect in the even years.
- C. Term of Office for Councils: Council Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected for a two (2) year term by members of each respective Council. The offices of the Secretary and Treasurer may be held by the same person. The Council Officers shall be elected as designated in Article #7 with odd numbered Councils electing in odd years, and the Councils designated in Article #7 with an even number electing in even years. All Council Officers must be a duly elected member of a governing body of a Soil and Water Conservation District in good standing with the Association at the time they are elected. Council Officer elections shall occur prior to the Annual Meeting and shall occur during the months of March, April or May to provide sufficient time for the names and addresses of those elected to be reported by the Council Secretary to the Secretary of the Association no later than two (2) weeks prior to the June Board of Directors meeting.

Section #3: Compensation.

Committee members and members of the Board of Directors may receive reasonable compensation for their services and may be reimbursed for expenses including travel expenses, necessarily incurred in the discharge of their duties.

Section #4: Duties.

- A. Duties of the President: The President shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Association. The President shall preside at all meetings of the members, at all meetings of the Board of Directors and Executive Committee. The President is authorized to appoint any member of the Board of Directors to represent the President to perform all functions thereof. The President shall, in addition, carry out the directives of the Association Board of Directors. The President shall create or dissolve Association Committees as needed.
- B. Duties of the Vice President: The Vice President shall assume and discharge the duties of the President in the absence of that officer and all other duties as assigned to him/her by the President. The Vice President shall serve as Resolution Committee and Legislative Focus Area Committee Chairperson. The Vice President will conduct an evaluation of the Association at mid-year. The Vice President will prepare the Annual Plan of Work.
- C. Duties of the Secretary: The Secretary shall be the custodian of all books, papers, records, the official seal and property of the Association. The Secretary shall keep the Corporate Records, shall act as Secretary of the meetings of the Board of Directors and of the Executive Committee. The Secretary will notify Districts of the version of Robert's Rules of Order to be used to conduct the business meeting of the Association. The Secretary shall give, or cause to be given, all notices required to be given, and shall perform such duties as may be assigned by the President. Secretary shall serve as Planning Focus Area Committee and Annual Meeting Task Force Chairperson.

- D. Duties of the Treasurer: The Treasurer shall have charge of the assets of this Association, and pay them out as ordered by the Board of Directors, which may be by direct order or duly adopted policy. The Treasurer shall keep accurate account of the receipts and disbursements and submit a record or report thereof to the Board of Directors at their regular meetings, and at such times as may be required. The Treasurer shall give a full and complete report for the fiscal year to the Annual Meeting of the Members. The Treasurer shall be Chairperson of the Financial Management Focus Area Committee and Audit Committee and assist with the preparation of a budget for each of the Committees, the Executive Committee, and General Budget of the Association. The Treasurer shall conduct an annual evaluation of insurance coverage to be reviewed annually. The Treasurer shall maintain an inventory of equipment, furniture, and furnishings as well as agreements and contracts to be reviewed annually.
- E. Duties of the Executive Committee: It shall be the duty of the Executive Committee to assess the goals and assemble information concerning matters of importance to the Board of Directors. The Executive Committee shall direct and guide the Association personnel toward accomplishment of the Association goals as identified in the Association's Annual Plan of Work. They shall review annually the By-Laws of the Association. They shall review resolutions submitted through the Association.
- F. Duties of the Executive Director: It shall be the duty of the Executive Director to carry out the goals and objectives of the Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts as outlined in the Association's Annual Plan of Work. The President of the Association and the Executive Committee will determine the priority of duties to be assigned.
- G. Duties of the Area Vice President: It shall be the duty of the Area Vice Presidents to assist the President in carrying on the business of the Association in the respective areas from which they are elected. It shall also be the duty of the Area Vice President to contact and meet with each Council in the Vice President's Area at least once in each fiscal year. They shall serve on the Executive Committee and shall submit Area wide concerns.
- H. Duties of the Association Director: It shall be the duty of the Association Directors to give direction, information and input to the Board of Directors and Executive Committee from their respective Council. They shall vote on issues brought before the Board of Directors at regular Board meetings or special meetings. They shall report results of Board meetings to Council meetings for local review, discussion and appropriate action. They shall serve on committees of the Association as directed by the President and/or Committee Chairperson. They shall attend their Council Meetings, Association Board Meetings, Association Annual Meeting, Association Committee Meetings, and other meetings deemed necessary by the President.
- I. Incapacity of Officers: A vacancy in any office (with the exception of the office of President) because of death, resignation, removal, disqualification, or otherwise, shall be filled by the Board of Directors for the unexpired portion of the term.

ARTICLE #5 | BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section #1: Board Meetings.

The Board of Directors composed of the Association Directors and Executive Committee members shall meet at least three (3) times a year or as often as the business of the Association requires. Regular scheduled Board Meetings will be held in the months of March, June and December. Each member of the Board of Directors is entitled to one (1) vote on all business to come before each Board Meeting. In the absence of a legal quorum, those present may conduct the business of the Association, with all actions so taken being subject to approval by the Board of Directors at a time when a quorum is declared.

- A. Special Meetings: Special meetings of the Board of Directors may be called by or at the request of the President or by a majority of the Board of Directors. The person or persons authorized to call special meetings of the Board of Directors may fix any place, either within or without the State of Illinois, as the place for holding any special meeting of the Board of Directors. Notice of special meetings shall be given to all board members and shall provide sufficient time to allow for any necessary preparation and travel to attend the meeting. No business may be transacted at a special meeting other than that stated in the

call. Such special meetings may take place in person, by conference call or by other available electronic means.

- B. Council Meetings: All Councils shall meet at least three (3) times a year or as often as the business of the Council requires.

Section #2: Committees:

In order to facilitate the work of the State Association the activities of the Association shall be divided into focus area committees. The Chairperson of each focus area committee shall be a duly elected Director of an Illinois Soil and Water Conservation District in good standing and appointed by the President of the Association. Reports shall be made by the Chairperson of each focus area committee to the board of directors. The Board of Directors shall have authority to approve, reject, revise or refer reports and requested actions back to focus area committee for further consideration. The focus area committees will meet at least once each year. The number of standing focus area committees and committees shall be determined by the President as deemed necessary to carry on the work of the Association with concurrence from the Board of Directors.

- A. Standing Committees: The standing focus area committees may include, but shall not be limited to the following: Communications Focus Area Committee, Planning Focus Area Committee, Legislative Focus Area Committee, Financial Management Focus Area Committee, Urban Community and Conservation Focus Area Committee, Education Focus Area Committee, Executive Committee, Resolutions Committee, Nominating Committee and Forestry Committee.
- B. Nominating Committee: The Nominating Committee shall annually present a slate of candidates to the delegate body for election as Officers of the Association. The Nominating Committee shall consist of the sixteen (16) Association Directors. The Nominating Committee shall elect the Chairperson from among its members at the December Board Meeting.
- C. Resolutions Committee: The Resolutions Committee shall be composed of the Vice President and four (4) Area Vice Presidents. The Vice President shall serve as the Resolution Chairperson. The Resolution Committee shall review resolutions and shall assign resolutions to standing committees for study and comment. The Resolution Committee may work with member Districts to combine similar resolutions. The Resolution Committee will make recommendations to the Board of Directors of appropriate action. All Resolutions submitted to the Resolution Committee will be presented to the delegate body at the Association's annual meeting.
- D. Resolution Book Review Committee: The Resolution Committee shall also serve as the Resolution Book Review Committee and shall review the Resolution Book on a yearly basis. Any Resolution in the Resolution Book deemed not relevant to the operation of the AISWCD will be brought forward to the voting Delegate Body of the AISWCD at its annual meeting to be voted on for removal. Delegates will be informed of Resolutions proposed for removal at least 30 days prior to the annual meeting. Any district that is a member in good standing has the right to request that the Resolution be further reviewed before it is brought before the delegate body for removal. In its request for further review, the district will provide reason for making its request. Once the Resolution Book Review Committee has determined that the resolution is no longer relevant to the operations of the AISWCD and that no district has requested further review, the question shall be put to the voting delegates present. A simple majority of the voting delegates present, voting for removal, will be necessary to remove the Resolution from the AISWCD Resolution Book.

ARTICLE #6 | FINANCE – SERVICE – SUNDRY PROVISIONS

Section #1: Depository.

The funds of this Association shall be kept in a Federally Insured Bank designated by the Executive Committee. Such a depository should be convenient and readily accessible to the Treasurer.

- A. Signatures: The signature of the President, Treasurer and the Treasurer's designee (Executive Director), and one other employee as may be deemed necessary and designated by the President shall be on file with the designated depository. The signature cards on file at the depository shall so designate.
- B. Bond: The Treasurer shall be required by the Board of Directors to give bond for the faithful discharge of duties in such sum and with such surety as may be determined by the Board of Directors. The premium on any corporate fidelity bond so required shall be paid out by the Association.

Section #2: Distribution of Assets.

No distribution of the property of this Association shall be made until all debts are fully paid, and then only upon its final dissolution and surrender of organization and name, and as otherwise provided by law; nor shall any distribution be made except by majority vote of the members of the Association at any regular or special meetings, and only after due notice has been given as prescribed by these by-laws as regards special meetings. However, this prohibition shall not operate to prevent the Association, while acting, from receiving and distributing or disbursing any funds as prescribed by these by-laws. In case of final dissolution of the Association, any funds remaining after all expenses and obligations are fully satisfied shall be distributed evenly to the soil and water conservation districts in good standing at time of dissolution.

Section #3: Fiscal Year.

The fiscal year of this Association shall begin with the first day of January and terminate with the thirty-first day of December.

Section #4: Order of Business.

The proceedings of this Association shall be conducted under and pursuant to Robert's Rules of Order except as herein otherwise provided.

Section #5: Corporate Seal.

The Corporate seal of this Association shall consist of two concentric circles, between which shall be the name of the Association, and in the center shall be inscribed the words "Corporate Seal", and such seal impressed on the margin is hereby adopted as the Corporate Seal of this Corporation.

ARTICLE #7

Section #1: Councils.

The Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Illinois shall be grouped into sixteen (16) Councils:

- Council # 1: Carroll - JoDaviess - Lee - Ogle - Stephenson - Whiteside
- Council # 2: Bureau - Henry - Marshall/Putnam - Mercer - Rock Island - Stark
- Council # 3: Grundy - Iroquois - Kankakee - Kendall - LaSalle - Livingston
- Council # 4: Fulton - Hancock - Henderson - Knox - McDonough - Warren
- Council # 5: Mason - Menard - Peoria - Tazewell - Woodford
- Council # 6: DeWitt - Ford - Logan - Macon - McLean - Moultrie - Piatt
- Council # 7: Clark - Champaign - Coles - Douglas - Edgar - Vermilion
- Council # 8: Adams - Brown - Calhoun - Cass - Greene - Morgan - Pike - Scott - Schuyler
- Council # 9: Bond - Christian - Macoupin - Montgomery - Sangamon
- Council #10: Cumberland - Effingham - Fayette - Jasper - Shelby
- Council #11: Crawford - Edwards - Lawrence - Richland - Wabash
- Council #12: Jersey - Madison - Monroe - Randolph - St. Clair
- Council #13: Clay - Clinton - Franklin - Jefferson - Marion - Washington - Wayne
- Council #14: Gallatin - Hamilton - Johnson - Massac - Pope/Hardin - Saline - White

Council #15: Jackson - Perry - Pulaski/Alexander - Union - Williamson

Council #16: Boone - DeKalb- Kane/DuPage - McHenry-Lake - North Cook - Winnebago - Will/South Cook

Section #2: Areas.

The State of Illinois shall be divided into four (4) areas. Areas shall consist of the following Councils:

Area # 1: Councils 1 - 2 - 3 - 16

Area # 2: Councils 4 - 5 - 8 - 9

Area # 3: Councils 6 - 7 - 10

Area # 4: Councils 11 - 12 - 13 - 14 - 15

Section #3: District Alignment.

District Boards may request movement from their current Council to another adjoining Council by majority approval from both Councils involved, by majority vote of the Association Board of Directors, and by majority vote of the voting delegates at the Annual Meeting

Revised and Approved - August 7, 2000

Revised and Approved - July 28, 2003

Revised and Approved - August 2, 2004

Revised and Approved - July 23, 2009

Revised and Approved - July 29, 2014

Revised and Approved - July 28, 2015

AISWCD FOUNDATION BYLAWS

ARTICLE I | NAME

The name of this not for profit corporation shall be ILLINOIS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS FOUNDATION.

ARTICLE II | MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts (AISWCD) Foundation is to secure funds for the support and enhancement of the District's goals to provide clean water and healthy soil.

ARTICLE III | PURPOSES

The purposes of the Foundation shall be as follows:

To assist in developing and furthering the interest, objectives and purposes of the Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts; to promote clean water, healthy soil, to foster and promote charitable and educational purposes designed to further the principles of soil conservation and stewardship, water conservation and energy conservation; to provide, conduct and sponsor programs to aid individuals, groups, organizations, governmental bodies, associations and all entities in combating soil erosion and energy water waste; including for all such purposes the making of distributions to organizations under Section 501 (C) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 or the corresponding provisions of any future United States Internal Revenue Law.

No part of the net earnings of the Foundation shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to, its members, trustees, officers or other private persons, except that the foundation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth herein. No substantial part of the activities of the Foundation shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the Foundation shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, the Foundation shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by a Foundation exempt from Federal income tax under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law) or (b) by a foundation, contributions to which are deductible under Section 170 (c) (2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law).

Upon the dissolution of the Foundation, the Board of Directors shall, after paying or making provisions for the payment of all of the liabilities of the Foundation, dispose of all of the assets of the Foundation, exclusively for the purposes of the Foundation in such manner, or to such organization or organizations organized and operated exclusively for charitable, educational or religious purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law), as the Board of Directors shall determine. Any of such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the Circuit Court of the county in which the principal office of the Foundation is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

The Foundation shall distribute its income for each taxable year at such time and in such manner as not to become subject to the tax on undistributed income imposed by Section 4942 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, or corresponding provisions of any subsequent Federal tax laws.

The Foundation shall not engage in any act of self-dealing as defined in Section 4941 (d) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, or corresponding provisions of any subsequent Federal tax laws.

The Foundation shall not retain any excess business holdings as defined in Section 4943 (c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, or corresponding provisions of any subsequent Federal tax laws.

The Foundation shall not make any investments in such manner as to subject it to tax under Section 4944 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, or corresponding provisions of any subsequent Federal tax laws.

The Foundation shall not make any taxable expenditures as defined in Section 4945 (d) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, or corresponding provisions of any subsequent Federal tax laws.

ARTICLE IV | ORGANIZATION UNITS

The organization of the Foundation shall be as follows:

- A. Consist of all Soil and Water Conservation Districts in Illinois as separate corporate bodies incorporated under an Enabling Act of the laws of the State of Illinois.
- B. For the purpose of providing representation on the Board of Directors, Districts are grouped into four (4) Areas with one representative and one alternate from each Area elected to the Board of Directors.
- C. For the purpose of coordinating the work of the Foundation, the governing body of the Foundation shall consist of the AISWCD President plus the four (4) Area Board of Director members (Board Directors) and Alternate Board of Director members (Alternate Board Directors) who are currently serving as duly elected members of a governing body of an Illinois Soil and Water Conservation District in good standing with the AISWCD Board. In addition, the Board will include four (4) At Large Board of Director members (At Large Board Directors). The four (4) At Large Board Directors shall be nominated and approved by the four (4) Area Board Directors and AISWCD President representing the AISWCD. The four (4) At Large Board Directors can be from Auxiliary, Illinois Soil and Water Conservation District Employees Association, Foundation donors, advisors, corporations, or community members.

ARTICLE V | PERSONNEL OF THE FOUNDATION

The governing body of the Foundation shall have full authority to hire personnel to fulfil the needs of the Foundation. Personnel may be managerial or administrative at the discretion of the Foundation Board of Directors. The Foundation Board of Directors has the authority to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the AISWCD to contract managerial and administrative duties.

ARTICLE VI | OFFICES

The Foundation shall have and continuously maintain in this State a registered office and a registered agent whose office is identical with such registered office and shall have other offices within or without the State of Illinois as the Board of Directors may from time to time determine.

ARTICLE VII | MEMBERS

The membership of the Foundation shall consist of two classes as follows:

- A. Active voting members shall be all the Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Illinois incorporated as separate corporate bodies under an Enabling Act of the laws of the State of Illinois and who are duly qualified members of the Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Each shall be represented by one delegate and each delegate shall have one vote.
- B. Cooperating sponsors of the Foundation shall consist of any individual, company, corporation or agency interested in supporting, either financially or through active participation, the purposes of the Foundation. Cooperating sponsors shall not be entitled to vote.

- C. The individuals, companies, corporations or agencies interested in obtaining membership as a cooperating sponsor shall make application to the Board of Directors for such membership and the Board of Directors shall act on such application at their next regular or special meeting or such other meeting as shall be convenient for such action.

ARTICLE VIII | MEETINGS OF MEMBERS

Section 1: Annual Meeting.

The annual meeting of the members of the Foundation shall be held at such time and place as may be designated by the Board of Directors of the Foundation. The Secretary shall send or have sent written notice to all members at least 30 days prior to the date set. Notice shall state time and place and shall include notice of special business that is to be presented over and above the ordinary or regular business.

Section 2: Special Meetings.

Special meetings of the members may be called at any time by the President or by a majority of the Board of Directors or upon written request of one-third of the active voting members of the Foundation. The President shall call a special meeting for the purpose of and within such time as shall be set forth in the written request. Notice of the special meeting shall be given in the same manner as herein provided for regular meetings. Special meetings may be held in person or by electronic means. No business may be transacted at a special meeting other than that stated in the call.

Section 3: Place of Meeting.

The Board of Directors may designate any place, either within or without of the State of Illinois, as the place of meeting for any annual meeting or special meeting of the members.

Section 4: Notice of Meetings.

Written or printed notice stating the place, day and hour of the meeting and, in the case of a special meeting, the purpose or purposes for which the meeting is called, shall be delivered not less than ten (10) days nor more than forty (40) days before the date of the meeting, either personally, by mail, or by electronic means by or at the direction of the Secretary to each member entitled to vote at such meeting.

Section 5: Quorum.

A majority of the active voting members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any regular or special meeting of the members. If less than a quorum is present or represented, a majority of the members represented at the meeting may adjourn the meeting from time to time without further notice.

Section 6 Qualifications.

The qualifications for a voting delegate to the membership meeting of the Foundation shall be that they must be District Directors appointed by a District governing body in good standing with AISWCD.

Section 7: Voting.

Each voting member shall be entitled to one vote on each matter submitted to a vote of the members. Each such member may vote in person or by proxy executed in writing by a member or by his or her duly authorized attorney in fact. Such proxy shall be filed with the Secretary of the Foundation before or at the time of the meeting.

ARTICLE IX | DIRECTORS

Section 1: General Powers.

The business, property and affairs of the Foundation shall be managed by its Board of Directors.

Section 2: Number, Tenure and Qualifications.

The Board of Director members of the Foundation shall consist of nine (9) persons who shall hold their office for a two (2) year term. Four (4) Area Board Directors and four Alternate Board Directors representing the Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts shall be elected by the members of the Foundation at the annual meeting. The AISWCD President shall also hold the office of Foundation President. The At Large Board Directors shall be nominated and approved by the four (4) Area Board Directors and AISWCD President. All Board Directors shall hold office after his or her election or appointment or until his or her successor shall have been elected and qualified (except in the case of resignation or removal). A majority of the members of the Foundation Board shall have the power at any meeting to remove any Director for cause and fill the vacancy and thereupon the Board of Director members so removed shall cease to be a Board of Director member. A Board Director must be a duly elected member of a governing body of a Soil and Water Conservation District in good standing in Illinois at the time he or she is elected or appointed.

Section 3: Nomination of Directors.

The four (4) Area Board Directors and four (4) Alternate Board Directors elected by the members shall be nominated by members of each Area prior to the annual meeting and their names and addresses shall be certified to the Secretary two (2) weeks prior to the annual meeting. The initial election shall be held at the 2018 annual meeting. Area One and Area Three will elect Board Directors and Alternate Directors to a one-year term. Area Two and Area Four will elect Board Directors and Alternate Directors to a two-year term. Subsequent elections will be held as follows:

Area One and Area Three - Directors and Alternate Directors shall be elected in odd number years.
Area Two and Area Four - Directors and Alternate Directors shall be elected in even number years.

The four (4) At Large Board Directors shall be nominated and approved by the four (4) Area Board Directors and AISWCD President and serve 2-year terms.

Section 4: Regular Meetings.

The Board of Directors is expected to meet monthly, or as often as the business of the Foundation requires. Meetings shall be held at such time and place as determined by the Board of Directors. Meetings may be held either physically or by electronic means.

Section 5: Special Meetings.

Special meetings of the Board of Directors may be called by or at the request of the President or any four (4) Area Board Directors. The person or persons authorized to call special meetings of the Board of Directors may fix any place, either within or without the State of Illinois, as the place for holding any special meeting of the Board of Directors called by them. Such meetings may be held in person or by electronic means.

Section 6: Notice.

Notice of any special meeting shall be given by the President at least five (5) days prior thereto by written notice delivered personally, mailed, emailed or other electronic means to each Director at his personal or business address. The attendance of a Director at any meeting shall constitute a waiver or notice of such meeting, except where a Director attends a meeting for the express purpose of objecting to the transaction of any business because the meeting is not lawfully called or convened. Neither the business to be transacted at, nor the purpose of, any regular or special meeting of the Board of Directors need be specified in the notice of such meeting.

Section 7: Quorum.

The presence either physically or by electronic means, of a majority of the members of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting of the Board of Directors, provided that if less than a majority of the Directors are present at said meeting, a majority of the Directors present may adjourn the meeting from time to time without further notice.

Section 8: Vacancies.

Except as provided in the last sentence of Section 2 of this Article, any vacancy occurring in the Board of Directors may be filled by the Board of Directors.

Section 9: Committees.

The President of the Foundation shall appoint all committees of the Foundation designated by the Board of Directors, other than committees having and exercising the authority of the Board of Directors in the management of the Foundation which shall be appointed by action of a majority of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE X | OFFICERS

Section 1: Number.

The officers of the Foundation shall be a President, a Vice President, a Secretary, a Treasurer and such other officers as may be elected or appointed by the Board of Directors.

Section 2: Election and Qualification of Officers.

The officers of the Foundation—Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer—shall be elected by the Board of Directors at their annual meeting except the first officers who shall be elected at the first meeting of the Board. The President of the AISWCD shall also hold the office of President of the Foundation. The term of the President shall be two (2) years. The term of the Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer shall be one (1) year. All officers shall hold their office until their successors shall have been duly elected and qualified.

Section 3: Vacancies.

A vacancy in any office (with the exception of the office of President) because of death, resignation, removal, disqualification, or otherwise, shall be filled by the Board of Directors for the unexpired portion of the term.

Section 4: The President.

Under the authority and subject to the direction of the Board of Directors, the President shall be the principal executive officer of the Foundation and shall in general supervise and control all of the business and affairs of the Foundation. He shall preside at all meetings of committees designated by the Board of Directors and in general shall perform all duties incident to the office of President and all duties which the Board of Directors may prescribe from time to time. He shall be responsible directly to the Board of Directors. He shall carry out or cause to be carried out all the policies of the Foundation.

Section 5: Vice President.

In the absence of the President or in the event of his inability or refusal to act, the Vice President shall perform the duties of the President, and when so acting, shall have all the powers of and be subject to all the restrictions upon the President. The Vice President shall perform such other duties as from time to time may be assigned to him by the President or by the Board of Directors.

Section 6: The Treasurer.

The Treasurer shall: (a) have custody of all Foundation funds and securities and shall keep in books belonging to the Foundation full and accurate accounts of all receipts and disbursements; he shall deposit all moneys, securities and other valuable effects in the name of the Foundation in such depositories as may be designated for that purpose by the Board of Directors. He shall disburse the funds of the Foundation as may be ordered by the Board, taking proper vouchers for such disbursements, and shall render to the President and Directors at the regular meetings of the Board, and whenever requested by them, an account of all his transactions as Treasurer and of the financial condition of the Foundation; (b) in general perform all the duties incident to the office of Treasurer and such other duties as from time to time may be assigned to him by the President or by the Board of Directors.

Section 7: The Secretary.

The Secretary shall: (a) keep the minutes of the members' and of the Board of Directors' meetings in one or more books provided for that purpose; (b) see that all notices are duly given in accordance with the provisions of these By-Laws or as required by law; (c) be custodian of the Foundation records and of the seal of the Foundation and see that the seal of the Foundation is affixed to all documents, the execution of which on behalf of the Foundation under its seal is duly authorized in accordance with law or with the provisions of these By-Laws; (d) keep a register of the post office address of each member which shall be furnished to the Secretary by such member; (e) in general perform all duties incident to the office of Secretary and such other duties as from time to time may be assigned to him by the President or by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE XI | COMPENSATION

There may be monetary compensation for officers or members of the Board of Directors. Room, board and mileage may be allowed and the necessary expenses of conducting the Foundation business.

ARTICLE XII | EXECUTION OF INSTRUMENTS

Section 1: Checks.

All checks, drafts and orders for payment of money shall be signed in the name of the Foundation and may be countersigned by such officers or agents as the Board of Directors shall from time to time designate for that purpose.

Section 2: Contracts and Conveyances.

When the execution of any contract, conveyance or other instrument has been authorized without specifications of the executing officers, the President, or Vice President, and the Secretary may execute the same and in the name and on behalf of the Foundation and may affix the corporate seal thereto.

ARTICLE XIII | SEAL

The Board of Directors shall provide a corporate seal which shall be in the form of a circle and shall have inscribed thereon the name of the Foundation and the words "Corporate Seal, Illinois".

ARTICLE XIV | WAIVER OF NOTICE

Whenever any notice whatever is required to be given under the provisions of these By-Laws or under the provisions of the Articles of Incorporation or any statutes of the State of Illinois relating to corporations not for pecuniary profit, waiver thereof in writing, signed by the person or persons entitled to such notice, whether before or after the time stated therein shall be deemed equivalent to the giving of such notice.

ARTICLE XV | AMENDMENTS

The By-Laws of the Foundation may be amended, repealed or altered at any annual, regular or special meeting of the Foundation by the affirmative vote of a majority of the active voting members in attendance, due notice of such meeting having been given, provided that the purpose of such amendment to the By-laws and a brief statement of the proposed amendment shall be included in the notice of the meeting. The By-Laws may also be amended, repealed or altered at any regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Foundation, where all Board Directors (or Alternate Directors) are present, by an affirmative vote of 75% of the Board of Directors then holding office. Any amendment adopted by the members shall take precedence over the amendment adopted by the Board of Directors. Any amendment of the By-Laws by the Board of Directors shall be reported to the members at the next regular meeting of the members following the action of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE XVI | FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year of the Foundation shall begin with the first day of January in each year and end on the thirty-first day of December in each year.

ARTICLE XVII | ORDER OF BUSINESS

The proceedings of the Foundation shall be conducted under and pursuant to Roberts Rules of Order, except as otherwise provided herein.

ARTICLE XVIII | AREAS

The State of Illinois shall be divided into four (4) Areas. Areas shall consist of the following Councils:

| | | |
|----------|-------------|---|
| Area #1: | Council #1 | Carroll - Jo Daviess - Lee - Ogle - Stephenson - Whiteside |
| | Council #2 | Bureau - Henry - Marshall/Putnam - Mercer - Rock Island - Stark |
| | Council #3 | Grundy - Iroquois - Kankakee - Kendall - LaSalle - Livingston |
| | Council #16 | Boone - DeKalb- Kane/DuPage - Lake - McHenry - North Cook - Winnebago - Will/South Cook |
| Area #2: | Council #4 | Fulton - Hancock - Henderson - Knox - McDonough - Warren |
| | Council #5 | Mason - Menard - Peoria - Tazewell - Woodford |
| | Council #8 | Adams - Brown - Calhoun - Cass - Greene - Morgan - Pike - Scott - Schuyler |
| | Council #9 | Bond - Christian - Macoupin - Montgomery - Sangamon |
| Area #3: | Council #6 | DeWitt - Ford - Logan - Macon - McLean - Moultrie - Piatt |
| | Council #7 | Clark - Champaign - Coles - Douglas - Edgar - Vermilion |
| | Council #10 | Cumberland - Effingham - Fayette - Jasper - Shelby |
| Area #4: | Council #11 | Crawford - Edwards - Lawrence - Richland - Wabash |
| | Council #12 | Jersey - Madison - Monroe - Randolph - St. Clair |
| | Council #13 | Clay - Clinton - Franklin - Jefferson - Marion - Washington - Wayne |
| | Council #14 | Gallatin - Hamilton - Johnson - Massac - Pope/Hardin - Saline - White |
| | Council #15 | Jackson - Perry - Pulaski/Alexander - Union - Williamson |

ARTICLE XIX | INDEMNIFICATION

The Foundation shall indemnify any and all of its Directors or officers or former Directors or officers or any person who may have served at its request or by its election as a Director or officer of another corporation, against expenses actually and necessarily incurred by them in connection with the defense or settlement of any action, suit or proceeding in which they, or any of them, are made parties, or a party, by reason of being or having been Directors or a Director or officer of the Foundation or of such other corporation, except in relation to matters as to which any such Director or officer or former Director or officer or person shall be adjudged in such action, suit or proceeding to be liable for willful misconduct in performance of duty and to such matters as shall be settled by agreement predicated on existence of such liability.

The indemnification provided hereby shall not be deemed exclusive of any other rights to which anyone seeking indemnification may be entitled under any bylaw, agreement, vote of members or disinterested Directors or otherwise, both as to action in his official capacity and as to action in another capacity while holding such office.

Revised and Approved
July 28, 2003

Revised and Approved
August 2, 2004

Revised and Approved

June 7, 2005

Revised and Approved
July 23, 2009

Revised and Approved
July 24, 2018

AISWCD ACTIVE RESOLUTIONS

AISWCD Resolution 2004-1 | Proposed South Suburban Airport-Peotone, Illinois

WHEREAS, the Soil and Conservation Districts are organized in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 70 of the Illinois Compiled statutes and are subject to powers and restrictions as set forth in paragraphs 405.1 to 405.43, the General Assembly declares it to be in the public interest to provide:

- . For the conservation of soil, soil resources, water and water resources of this State,
- . For the control and prevention of soil erosion,
- . For the prevention of air and water pollution and,
- . For the prevention of erosion, floodwater and sediment damages, and thereby to conserve natural resources, control floods, prevent impairment of dams and reservoirs, assist in maintaining the navigability of rivers and harbors, conserve wildlife and forests, protect the tax base, protect and promote the health, safety and general welfare of the people of the State,

WHEREAS, the General Assembly finds that erosion continues to be a serious problem throughout the State, and that rapid shifts in land use from agricultural to nonagricultural uses, changes in farm enterprises, operations, ownership, construction of housing, industrial and commercial developments, streets, highways, and other land disturbing activities have accelerated the process of soil erosion and sedimentation resulting in pollution of the waters and damage to domestic, agricultural, industrial, recreational, fish and wildlife, and other resources uses. It is therefore, declared to be the policy of the State to strengthen and extend the present erosion and sedimentation control activities and programs for both rural and urban lands,

WHEREAS, Chapter 525, Par. 45/1 et seq., the “Water Use Act of 1983”, wherein, the General Assembly declares it to be in the public interest to better manage and conserve water; and Chapter 505, Par. 135/1 et seq., the Sustainable Agricultural act, that identifies that in order to sustain a high level of agricultural production into the Twenty-first century and beyond, it is critical to determine the optimum methods for production which result in the best return and best preserves the environment and farmland of Illinois,

THEREFORE, be it resolved, that the Illinois Association of Soil and Water Conservation District opposes the existence of the proposed South Suburban Airport in Peotone, Illinois because of the loss of prime farmland, excessive soil erosion, water quality impacts (storm water and drinking) increase flooding, urban sprawl, and the financial impact on local, state and federal budget shortfalls.

Approved by Will South Cook County SWCD: 01/01/04

Approved by Land Use Council 16: 01/01/04

Approved by Legislative Committee: 06/07/04

Approved by Resolutions Committee: 06/07/04

Approved by AISWCD Board: 06/08/04

Resolution 2004-1 PASSED on 08/02/04

Update: The AISWCD is on record as opposing the South Suburban Airport. There is nothing more that can be done at this time, but since the issue is not laid to rest, it is recommended that this resolution be retained for future action by the AISWCD.

AISWCD Resolution 2005-2 | Reinstate the Conservation Cost Share Program

During the past several years the State Legislature has allocated over two million dollars annually to SWCD's for conservation practice installation. The state money paid for sixty percent of the project cost while the landowner was responsible for the remaining forty percent. Very few other state funds are matched by local landowners enabling the program funds to do that many more projects. Recently part of this money was also used for nutrient management and well sealing by SWCD's throughout the state. All these practices improved water quality and reduced siltation in streams and lakes.

WHEREAS, funding for the CPP allocation was reduced to zero and these funds were used for district operations,

WHEREAS, SWCD's in Illinois have projects on a waiting list,

THEREFORE, we the Delegates of AISWCD ask the AISWCD to lobby the Governor and the Legislature to fully fund this important program in the amount of \$2.7 million.

Approved by the Whiteside County Soil & Water Conservation District June 1st, 2005

Approved by the Northwestern Illinois Land Use Council June 2nd, 2005

No Action Taken by Executive Committee: June 6, 2005

Approved by Legislative Committee: June 6, 2005

Approved by Resolutions Committee: June 6, 2005

Approved by AISWCD Board: June 7, 2005

Resolution 2005-2 PASSED With Amendments on August 1, 2005

Action: The AISWCD worked with members of the General Assembly in an effort to increase cost share funding. An increase of \$600,000 was approved for FY 07. The total anticipated cost share funding for FY 07 is \$2,125,000 from General Revenue sources and \$2,612,500 from Capital Project source funds. In FY 2014, an additional \$515,000 was allocated to the SWCDs, about half of that amount was used for cost share.

Update: AISWCD has continued to work to obtain funding for cost share and operations with limited success due to the state's poor financial condition. AISWCD will continue to work on this resolution.

AISWCD Resolution 2006-1 | Promoting Proper Application of Fertilizers* and Pesticides on Lawns and Gardens**

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts actively pursue an education effort directed to urban public, commercial, and private landowners of Illinois regarding the proper application of fertilizers and pesticides on lawns, gardens, and landscaping using educational materials developed by the Association and/or available from its partners. This outreach should emphasize careful, safe, timely, and prudent use of chemicals or alternative amendments used in conjunction with a scheduled soil-testing program, and adequate flagging of application sites.

* Any nutrients added to soil

** Any herbicides or insecticides applied to manage weeds or insects

Action: AISWCD in cooperation with IEPA developed a 60-second radio spot that aired on forty radio stations a total of 800 times. The spot emphasized protecting water quality through soil testing and proper use of pesticides and fertilizers.

AISWCD Resolution 2006-2 | Increasing CPP Funding Percentage

THEREFORE, we the AISWCD feel that an increase up to 75% cost share offered by the local soil and water districts would allow more landowners to participate in this program, thus, resulting in more conservation practices being put on the ground.

Explanation/Clarification: Each year the Illinois Department of Agriculture appropriates funds for cost sharing of conservation practices in our state. This rate is 60% funded by the state and 40% funded by the landowner. With the cost of construction rising each year and the amount of income by the landowner declining and some dollars being returned to the state general fund not being spent for CPP practices each year and with FSA CRP having 90% cost share program. We, the Association of Illinois Soil and Water Districts, would encourage the Illinois Department of Agriculture to change the amount of funding from 60% to 75%. This would allow more landowners to participate in the program to accomplish conservation at a lower out of pocket expense.

Action: AISWCD has created a C-2000 Taskforce to review the CPP program and develop recommendations for the Department of Agriculture to consider. The Taskforce, composed of one district director, one AISWCD employee, three BLWR employees, one NRCS Assistant State Conservationist and five SWCD employees, has met twice. A survey has been developed and submitted for SWCDs to respond. Survey responses and recommendations based on those responses will be provided to the Department.

Update: AISWCD worked with Brownfield Network to develop three 30-second radio spots designed to educate people on proper use of fertilizers and pesticides and to encourage the practice of no-till.

AISWCD Resolution 2007-3 | Farmland and Open Space Protection

The Farmland and Open Space Taskforce continued through 2008 and into 2009. In 2008 a bill was entered to establish a law that would allow counties to hold a public referendum to establish a tax to purchase easements to protect farmland and open space. The bill did not receive consideration in both houses before the 85th legislative session ended. In February 2009, the bill was introduced in the Senate as SB 286 with Senator Pamela Althoff as the primary sponsor. The bill passed the Senate in April and was assigned to the House Counties and Townships Committee. Strong opposition from the Realtors and Home Builders associations prevented the bill from passing out of the committee. Efforts will resume in the fall to work with the opposition and pass the bill to the House floor.

Update: All efforts to get the bill out of committee or to amend a shell bill to get the measure to the floor have failed. Pending a change in administration, AISWCD will continue to pursue this legislation.

AISWCD Resolution 2008-1 | Stable Funding

AISWCD leaders have met with legislative leaders to discuss the need for a stable funding source for Illinois' soil and water conservation districts. Most of the legislators were supportive of the need for funding but would not commit to leading such an effort. Efforts were halted in late September due to the election. We have met with new leadership in the House and Senate but with the State's current financial situation, legislators are not willing to discuss efforts to increase funding for SWCDs. SWCDs have been and will continue to be encouraged to maintain close contact with their legislators in an effort keep district needs in front of legislators. AISWCD efforts will continue as opportunities are made available.

Update: AISWCD has been successful in getting funding for the SWCDs in gaming bills brought forth in the 97th and 98th General Assemblies. As of yet no bills have passed.

AISWCD Resolution 2008-2 | Marketing Plan

The AISWCD Communications Focus Area Committee created the Marketing Taskforce to work on development of a marketing plan. The plan focused on educational efforts with legislators as a priority and legislators in the Chicago Metropolitan area as the primary target for legislators. Three mailings were sent to every legislator. The mailings included:

- . two bags of soil representing rural and urban areas,
- . a brass water faucet, and
- . a letter explaining the first two mailings and the role SWCDs play in protecting our land and water resources. The letter also introduced a new feature on the AISWCD web site that legislators can use to track SWCD activities in their districts.

In a further effort to educate the North Eastern Illinois legislators, the Legislative Focus Area Committee formed the Focused Legislative Taskforce. The purpose of that taskforce is to contact legislators and to discuss the services that SWCDs provide to their constituents. The Taskforce followed up with several legislators following the mailings and was present at the capitol the week of earth day to hand out lapel ribbons with a message concerning SWCD efforts to protect the environment.

Update: This effort has resulted in annual legislative days at which SWCD directors and staff members converge on Springfield to talk with legislators about SWCD programs and funding needs. An attempt to hold a summer legislative Day at Wildlife Prairie State Park in Peoria County during the 2013 summer months failed when legislator attendance failed to materialize. Further attempts will be made in the future at alternate locations closer to the Chicago Metro Area.

AISWCD Resolution 2009-5 | Dedicated Funding for Marketing Plan

Be it resolved that up to 10% percent of the total AISWCD dues received for the fiscal year be dedicated to implement the marketing plan developed that assists all 98 SWCD's in educating our customers about SWCD's value and purpose.

Action: No money has been set aside for a Marketing Plan in the 2010 budget.

Update: An Affiliate Membership program was begun in 2013 to help fund Envirothon and to eventually help fund a marketing program.

AISWCD Resolution 2010-2 | Establish Illinois Envirothon Scholarship Program

WHEREAS, Canon Envirothon (international competition) offers college scholarships to members of the winning teams at the international level,

WHEREAS, Land Use Council #1 Envirothon has established a scholarship program for members of the winning team at the LUC level. This has cost the participating SWCDs \$0 as all of the money for the program is raised through sponsorships with outside organizations,

WHEREAS, it is important to promote the further education of individuals who understand and care about the environment,

THEREFORE, be it resolved, the AISWCD shall pursue establishing a scholarship program for members of the winning teams at the Illinois Envirothon. This may include soliciting sponsorships for the scholarship program.

Approved by Land Use Council #1: May 20, 2010

Approved by AISWCD Board - June 8, 2010

Update: AISWCD has begun an Affiliate Membership program and is continuously seeking sponsors for the Envirothon to raise funds to support this resolution.

AISWCD Resolution 2011-1 | Prevailing Wage Act

WHEREAS, Government cost share involvement in soil conservation is a very cost effective method of environmental protection as opposed to the cost of environmental remediation,

WHEREAS, Government cost share programs motivate landowners to use proven methods of soil conservation,

WHEREAS, Allocated conservation dollars will go further with a prevailing wage exemption,

WHEREAS, Prevailing wage requirements will discourage landowners from entering into contracts with IDOA for soil conservation projects,

WHEREAS, Landowners that do enter into a contract may be liable for penalties and fines if a prevailing wage violation occurs,

WHEREAS, Government agencies that issue a contract may be liable for penalties and fines if a prevailing wage violation occurs,

WHEREAS, Contractors that are unaware that prevailing wage is required may be subject to penalties and fines if a violation occurs,

WHEREAS, The publicity that would occur if a landowner is penalized for a prevailing wage violation on private land would effectively end participation in soil conservation cost share programs,

WHEREAS, Loss of participation would eliminate an important test bed for research and development for soil conservation,

THEREFORE, be it resolved, that the AISWCD work with Illinois Department of Agriculture and Illinois legislators to draft and adopt an exemption from the prevailing wage act for public work funds expended on privately owned lands.

Adopted by the Marion County SWCD at their May 12, 2011 board meeting.

Approved by Marion County SWCD Board - May 12, 2011

Not Presented yet: Land Use Council 13

Approved by AISWCD Board - June 14, 2011

Update: AISWCD was successful in getting HB 0987 drafted and presented in the House. The bill made it to third reading during the 2013 Spring Session but was never allowed to be read. Representative David Reis entered a new bill, HB 5606 during the 2014 Spring Session that exempted work done for purposes of soil and water conservation, whether or not done under public supervision or paid for wholly or in part out of public funds, and performed directly by an owner or person who has legal control on agricultural lands. The bill passed and became law on July

16, 2014. With a change in the state's political administration, AISWCD will continue to pursue exemption of the state funded cost share program from the provisions of the Prevailing Wage Act.

AISWCD Resolution 2011-4 | Reestablish an Annual AISWCD Ag Legislative Day Event (e.g. Breakfast)

WHEREAS, keeping in regular contact with statewide legislators is extremely important to the vitality of SWCD programs and funding,

WHEREAS, statewide SWCD employees, directors, supporters and "Power of 10" networks work diligently to keep in contact with statewide legislators,

WHEREAS, regular correspondence does not equal the value of face-to-face contact made by SWCD employees, directors and supporters with legislators,

THEREFORE, be it resolved, the AISWCD shall pursue reestablishing an annual Ag Legislative Day event for statewide legislators and SWCD employees, directors and supporters to attend for the purpose of gaining face time with and educating statewide legislators about SWCD activities and accomplishments.

Resolution presented by Warren County SWCD. Motion to accept resolution was made by Warren County SWCD and seconded by Marion County SWCD. Motion was approved by 75% majority on voice vote. Resolution passed July 27, 2011 on voice vote.

Update: The AISWCD has conducted legislative Day events in 2012, 2013 and 2014. Because of the expense of hosting such an event, it is recommended that a minimum attendance level of at least 10% (49 directors) of the active SWCD directors attend this event for it to be held.

AISWCD Resolution 2012-2 | Feral Hog Resolution

WHEREAS, feral hog populations have been confirmed in numerous counties and locations in Illinois,

WHEREAS, these animals are very destructive to timber woodlands, pastures, hay fields, commodity crops, soils, water sources and livestock,

WHEREAS, it is feared the population of this species might explode and subsequently endanger other wildlife and livestock with numerous diseases,

THEREFORE, be it resolved, the AISWCD supports the dissemination of informational and educational materials in an organized approach to seek out and eradicate this potential threat in the early stages of development before it reaches epidemic levels.

Approved by Land Use Council 13 - March 15, 2012

Approved by AISWCD Board - June 14, 2012

Update: Presentations about Feral Hogs have been included in two meetings, Winter Training 2012 and the Annual Meeting in 2013. It is the intent of the AISWCD to repeat informational sessions at future meetings.

AISWCD Resolution 2012-4 | Illinois Invasive Plant Species List Resolution

WHEREAS, the Illinois Invasive Plant Species Council was created in 2005 to minimize the adverse economic and ecological effects invasive plants pose to the State of Illinois,

WHEREAS, the Illinois Invasive Plant Species Council has created a listing of over 100 invasive plant species,

WHEREAS, the Illinois Exotic Weed Act and the Illinois Noxious Weed Act do not recognize the listing created by the Illinois Plant Species Council,

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Agricultural and the Natural Resources created their list of recognized invasive plant species from the Illinois Exotic Weed Act and the Illinois Noxious Weed Act,

THEREFORE, be it resolved, the AISWCD supports the review and addition of newly recognized plant species by the Illinois Invasive Plant Species Council to the Illinois Exotic Weed Act and the Illinois Noxious Weed Act.

Approved by Land Use Council 13 - March 15, 2012

Approved by AISWCD Board June 14, 2012

Update: AISWCD has obtained lists of exotic, invasive and noxious weeds for Illinois and is currently comparing the lists for differences and similarities so that dialogue on list consolidation can commence.

AISWCD Resolution 2013-1 | Soil and Water Conservation Districts Policy Book

WHEREAS, The Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts does not have written guidance for staff and directors,

WHEREAS, The Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts does not currently have a written goal or policy to provide to members or legislature,

WHEREAS, The Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts has passed many resolutions that new members are not aware of,

WHEREAS, The Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts does not have a procedure to distribute current and past resolutions to the many Soil and Water Conservation Districts it represents,

THEREFORE, be it resolved, the Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts shall begin a policy book based on all past resolutions. The new policy book shall be updated only once a year at the Annual Meeting of The Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation District. The policy book will guide staff and directors each year.

Approved by:

Piatt County Soil and Water Conservation District - January 15, 2013

Land Use Council 7 (amended grammar) - March 4, 2013

Land Use Council 6 - March 14, 2013

Champaign County Soil and Water Conservation District - April 24, 2013

Moultrie County Soil and Water Conservation District - May 8, 2013

Douglas County Soil and Water Conservation District - May 21, 2013

AISWCD Board - June 11, 2013

Update: The Resolution (policy) book has been developed according to this resolution and will be updated as may be necessary. The book will be available at the 2014 AISWCD Annual Meeting and each subsequent meeting thereafter.

AISWCD RESOLUTION 2014-1 | Illinois Certainty Program

WHEREAS, farmers need to be pro-active in conservation of soil and water resources,

WHEREAS, there are currently a number of practices that farmers can implement to steward their land,

WHEREAS, Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts encourage the use of appropriate conservation practices to address the needed resource concerns,

WHEREAS, a number of states have developed certainty programs to assist agricultural producers and land users in meeting regulatory requirements,

THEREFORE, be it resolved, that The Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and its partners, need to research the feasibility of a certainty program similar to states such as Louisiana, Michigan and Minnesota that will help agricultural land users meet governmental regulations.

Approved by:

Kane-DuPage Soil and Water Conservation District - February 13, 2014

Land Use Council 16 - February 20, 2014

AISWCD Board - June 10, 2014

Passed by a majority of Voting Delegates - July 29, 2014

AISWCD Resolution 2014 - 2 | Nutrient Reduction Strategy

WHEREAS, many land users, urban and rural, contribute significant inputs of nitrogen and phosphorous to our waterways,

WHEREAS, nutrient loading is a current issue and will continue to be into the future,

WHEREAS, nutrient loading is a contributor to the Gulf of Mexico hypoxia, which has consequences world-wide,

WHEREAS, all land users need to be major participants in addressing nutrient loading,

THEREFORE, be it resolved, that the Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts (AISWCD) and all the Soil & Water Conservation Districts pursue active involvement in the proposed State Nutrient Loss Reduction Management Plan being developed by IEPA. As the leading voices for conservation offer to administer education programs & offer technical assistance as well as offer along with other interested members of the Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy Workgroup help develop and administer a certainty program and advocate the need for a funding system to create a voluntary implementation of the final plan.

Approved by:

Kane-DuPage Soil and Water Conservation District – February 13, 2014

Land Use Council 16 – February 2, 2014

Not Supported as Proposed by:

AISWCD Board – which requested a friendly amendment - June 10, 2014

Amended from the floor and passed by:
A majority of the Voting Delegates - July 29, 2014

AISWCD Resolution 2014 - 3 | Soil Health Program

WHEREAS, Illinois soil is some of the most productive in the world,

WHEREAS, farmers need to be responsible stewards of the land and to preserve and protect the soil for future generations,

WHEREAS, Illinois needs to be a leader in soil conservation through efficient nutrient management while supporting soil biology and sustainability,

WHEREAS, the trend of Illinois Soil Conservation Transect Surveys has indicated that conservation tillage has been decreasing,

WHEREAS, Illinois made great strides to meet tolerable soil loss by the year 2000,

THEREFORE, be it resolved, that the Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts investigate, with its partners, a comprehensive statewide soil conservation program that incorporates a systematic approach through reducing soil loss and managing nutrients efficiently to achieve healthy soil.

Approved by:
Kane-DuPage Soil and Water Conservation District - February 13, 2014
Land Use Council 16: 02/20/2014

Not supported as proposed:
AISWCD Board which requested a friendly amendment - June 10, 2014

Amended on the floor and Passed By:
A majority of the Voting Delegates - July 29, 2014

AISWCD By-Law Amendment 2014 - 1

ARTICLE 2 Section #6: Resolutions

Add to existing wording: Resolutions passed by the voting delegates at the annual meeting will be added to the AISWCD Policy Book for use by the AISWCD Employees, Officers and members to further the efforts of Conservation by the AISWCD.

ARTICLE #5 Section #2: Committees

Add new paragraph - D. Resolution Book Review Committee

D. Resolution Book Review Committee: The Resolution Committee shall also serve as the Resolution Book Review Committee and shall review the Resolution Book on a yearly basis. Any Resolution in the Resolution Book deemed not relevant to the operation of the AISWCD will be brought forward to the voting Delegate Body of the AISWCD at

its annual meeting to be voted on for removal. Delegates will be informed of Resolutions proposed for removal at least 30 days prior to the annual meeting. Any district that is a member in good standing has the right to request that the Resolution be further reviewed before it is brought before the delegate body for removal. In its request for further review, the district will provide reason for making its request. Once the Resolution Book Review Committee has determined that the resolution is no longer relevant to the operations of the AISWCD and that no district has requested further review, the question shall be put to the voting delegates present. A simple majority of the voting delegates present, voting for removal, will be necessary to remove the Resolution from the AISWCD Resolution Book.

Explanation: Two options are listed above. The membership will choose one and the By-Laws amendment, if adopted, will contain that chosen option.

NACD uses a simple majority in removing a resolution from their book but any district can ask for further consideration of a Resolution before it is removed.

** Note: This By-Law Amendment, if approved by Voting Delegates, will be effective immediately.

Approved by:
AISWCD Board - June 10, 2014

Approved:
Option two

Passed By:
The Voting Delegates - July 29, 2014

AISWCD Resolution 2015-2 | NRCS Promoting Conservation via Land User Database

WHEREAS, it is essential that USDA NRCS has access to up-to-date contact information for land users in order to deliver an effective conservation program,

WHEREAS, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) field offices can increase conservation education and program participation by mail and email communication with customers,

WHEREAS, customer information linked to a tract allows NRCS to geographically target specific conservation communications with the aid of Geographic Information Systems (GIS). For example, conservation communications could be targeted to landowners in the 100 year flood plain or a watershed,

WHEREAS, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) field offices do not have access to a database that includes Farms, Tracts, Owner, Operator, and Contact Information which would allow mail communications,

WHEREAS, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) maintains the official database of farm records and customer information, procured through Form AD-2047,

WHEREAS, Form AD-2047, specifies, "The information collected on this form may be disclosed to other Federal, State, Local, government agencies, Tribal agencies, and nongovernmental entities applicable Routine Uses identified in the System of Records Notices for USDA/FSA-2, Farm Records File (Automated, USDA, NRCS-1, Landowner, Operator, Producer, Cooperator, or Participant Files, and USDA/RD-1, Applicant, Borrower, Grantee, or Tenant Filed."

THEREFORE, be it resolved, that the Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts and The National Association of Conservation Districts request USDA FSA Headquarters provides NRCS field offices with access to a current database to be used for mailing to promote conservation and NRCS programs. The database should provide easy conversion to a usable spreadsheet format. At a minimum, the database should contain the following information:

State Code, County Code, Farm Number, Tract Number, Operator Last Name, Operator Middle Name, Operator First Name, Operator Formatted Name, Operator Address 1, Operator Address 2, Operator City, Operator State, Operator Zip Code, Operator Phone Number 1, Operator Phone Number 2, Operator Email, Owner Last Name, Owner Middle Name, Owner First Name, Owner Formatted Name, Owner Address 1, Owner Address 2, Owner City, Owner State, Owner Zip Code, Owner Phone 1, Owner Phone 2, Owner Email.

Approved By:

Rock Island Soil and Water Conservation District – April 7, 2015

Land Use Council 2 – June 1, 2015

Association of IL Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Directors – June 9, 2015

Passed By:

A Majority of Voting Delegates – July 28, 2015

AISWCD Resolution 2015-3 | Permanent Easement Programs and Property Tax Relief

WHEREAS, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) Wetland Reserve Easement (WRE) program provides public benefit by reducing flooding due to increased floodwater retention,

WHEREAS, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) along with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) and Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD's) Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) provides public benefit by reducing flooding due to increased floodwater retention,

WHEREAS, USDA NRCS ACEP WRE program along with USDA FSA IDNR SWCD's CREP provides public benefit of improving water quality by the natural filtering effect of wetland areas on floodwater,

WHEREAS, USDA NRCS ACEP WRE program along with USDA FSA IDNR SWCD's CREP provides public benefit by providing habitat for migrating waterfowl, pollinators, and other native wildlife,

WHEREAS, USDA NRCS ACEP WRE program along with USDA FSA IDNR SWCD's CREP provides public benefit by establishing and maintaining a diversity of rare native grasses, forb, and tree species.

WHEREAS, USDA NRCS ACEP WRE program along with USDA FSA IDNR SWCD's CREP provides public benefit of improving water quality by reducing soil erosion and sedimentation,

WHEREAS, USDA NRCS ACEP WRE program along with USDA FSA IDNR SWCD's CREP permanently removes frequently flooded cropland from production and prohibits future farming and development,

WHEREAS, land enrolled in USDA NRCS ACEP WRE along with USDA FSA IDNR SWCD's CREP has greatly reduced income potential,

WHEREAS, many landowners in multiple counties in Illinois have seen their property tax bill increase after enrolling land in USDA NRCS ACEP WRE along with USDA FSA IDNR SWCD's CREP, while some tax rates remained steady or reduced,

WHEREAS, consistency in property tax regulation guarantees uniform and fair treatment for land in WRE and aids in accurate program promotion,

WHEREAS, increased property taxes on land with permanent USDA NRCS ACEP WRE along with USDA FSA IDNR SWCD's CREP easements have reduced the number of landowners willing to enroll land in the USDA NRCS ACEP WRE program,

WHEREAS, precedent exists in Illinois for reduced property taxes on vegetative filter strips (35 ILCS 200/10-152) and managed forest land (35 ILCS 200/10-150).

THEREFORE, be it resolved, that the Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts work with the State of Illinois to amend the property tax code to encourage landowners to enroll land in the USDA NRCS ACEP WRE and CREP programs. Land in any of these permanent easement programs shall have the enrolled acreage assessed at 1/6 of its productivity index equalized assessed value as cropland.

Approved By:

White County Soil and Water Conservation District – June 2, 2015

Land Use Council 14 – June 3, 2015

Not Supported As Proposed:

AISWCD Board – June 9, 2015

Amended on the floor and Passed By:

All of the Voting Delegates – July 28, 2015

PROPOSED AISWCD BY-LAW AMENDMENT 2015-1

The following is proposed to be amended to the AISWCD's By-laws to clear-up confusion concerning the questions about when Association dues are paid in full and the determination of District "in good standing".

ARTICLE #1 Section #6: Dues

The dues of the Association shall be paid in full annually by January 1.

Proposed amendment:

The dues of the Association shall be paid in full within 45 days after receipt of invoice.

ARTICLE#1 Section #5 Membership

A. Active Voting Members: Shall be the Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Illinois, whose dues have been paid in full by January 1 of each year. (subject to Article 1 Section 6, B) which qualifies them to be a district in good standing. Each shall be represented by one delegate and one alternate current director appointed by the District governing body. Each District shall have one vote. A district in good standing shall have privileges of being represented by the Association and directors able to hold office, vote in Association matters, and participate in Association programs.

Proposed amendment:

Active Voting Members: Shall be the Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Illinois, whose dues have been paid in full for the previous 365 days.

Note: This By-Law Amendment, if approved by voting delegates, will be effective immediately.

Approved by:
AISWCD Board – June, 9, 2015

Passed By: Voting Delegates – July 28, 2015

AISWCD Resolution 2016-1 | AISWCD Insurance Package Policy

WHEREAS, Soil and Water Conservation Districts need access to affordable liability, worker's compensation and equipment insurance.

WHEREAS, the AISWCD holds a package insurance policy with R.W. Troxell which allows SWCDs access to affordable coverage,

WHEREAS, AISWCD does not currently have a policy regarding how to manage or handle the coverage for up to 97 SWCDs,

WHEREAS, AISWCD needs to establish a policy with guidelines on the Package Insurance Policy to help guide SWCD Directors and Employees on payment deadlines and requirements that need to be met in order to keep this affordable insurance for the SWCD,

THEREFORE, be it resolved, that the Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts (AISWCD) shall develop a policy to list guidelines and requirements in order for SWCDs to remain on the AISWCDs Package Insurance Policy,

Approved By: AISWCD Board – June 7, 2016
Passed By: A Majority of Voting Delegates – July 26, 2016

AISWCD Resolution 2016-2 | SWCD Dedicated Funding Source

WHEREAS, Soil and Water Conservation Districts need a dedicated funding source to remain sustainable,

WHEREAS, the AISWCD Resolution 2008-1 Stable Funding states a need for SWCDs to have dedicated funds for Soil and Water Conservation Districts,

WHEREAS, AISWCD will seek legislation beginning in 2017 to identify a source of dedicated funding for Soil and Water Conservation Districts,

THEREFORE, be it resolved, that the Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts (AISWCD) shall pursue legislation to invest in Soil and Water Conservation Districts' conservation efforts and partner with natural resources and environmental organizations to protect and conserve the natural resources of Illinois with a one-tenth of one percent statewide sales tax.

Approved By: AISWCD Board – June 7, 2016
Passed By: A Majority of Voting Delegates – July 26, 2016

AISWCD Resolution 2016-6 | Resolution to Eliminate the Dues Requirement for Participation With Contribution Sub-Agreements

WHEREAS, Illinois' 97 Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) have participated with the USDA/Natural Resources Conservation Service CRP Contribution Agreements and have successfully carried out those agreements,

WHEREAS, SWCD participation in the Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts (AISWCD) Contribution Sub-Agreements has been just as successful,

WHEREAS, many SWCDs have participated to the fullest extent of their capability to use Contribution Agreement and/or Sub-Agreement funds to replace reduced levels of state operations dollars since 2008,

WHEREAS, many SWCDs are able to only write Contribution Sub-Agreements for amounts which are insufficient to pay both AISWCD dues as well as operational expenses,

WHEREAS, AISWCD is being fully compensated for their administration of Sub-Agreements by USDA/NRCS,

THEREFORE, be it resolved, that the AISWCD shall eliminate the dues requirement of SWCDs in order to participate with NRCS Contribution Sub-Agreements.

Approved By:
Montgomery County SWCD March 28, 2016
Christian County SWCD March 28, 2016
Greene County SWCD March 28, 2016
Macoupin County SWCD May 4, 2016
Clinton County SWCD May 10, 2016
Bond County SWCD May 11, 2016
Hancock County SWCD May 11, 2016
Effingham County SWCD May 17, 2016
Land Use Council 16 May 26, 2016
Land Use Council 8 May 27, 2016

Approved with changes to wording to address the need to change Article 1, Section SA of the by-laws to read "Districts do not need to be in good standing to participate in any agreement where the AISWCD receives funds to administer said agreement".

Land Use Council 4 – May 31, 2016

Not Supported:
AISWCD Board – June 7, 2016

Amended on the Floor and Passed by:
Voting Delegates – July 26, 2016

AISWCD Resolution 2017-1 | AISWCD Foundation

WHEREAS, the current AISWCD Foundation exists, but does not have a set direction,

THEREFORE, be it resolved, the Land Use Council 3 proposes that the AISWCD review the current structure and purpose of the AISWCD Foundation in order to revitalize the Foundation's purpose and intent.

Approved by: LUC 3 Meeting - May 25, 2017

Approved by: AISWCD Board - June 6, 2017

AISWCD Resolution 2017-2 | AISWCD NLRS

WHEREAS, water quality is of great concern to Illinois citizens,

WHEREAS, the Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy (NLRS) implementation is of great importance,

WHEREAS, the Soil and Water Conservation Districts focus on conservation best management practices that will address water quality concerns and implementation of the NLRS,

THEREFORE, be it resolved, the AISWCD will put a priority on water quality with an emphasis on such things as the NLRS (Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy). Once water quality is policy, all Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Illinois will be able to implement NLRS and other water quality initiatives within their own boundaries, well knowing the priorities that lie within each of their unique and individual districts, with direct support from AISWCD. This support could provide a conduit connecting districts with potential partners, assist in the organization of training for Nutrient Management Plans, Urban Outreach and recognition of how urban life has a direct effect on NLRS.

Approved by:

Crawford SWCD Board - May 1, 2017

AISWCD Board – June 6, 2017

AISWCD Resolution 2017- 3 | District Director and Employee Training

WHEREAS, District forums have generally expressed a need for addition of District Director and Employee training,

WHEREAS, The Department of Agriculture no longer has the resources to provide newly elected Directors or new Employee training as in the past,

WHEREAS, the State of Illinois Budget complications have caused Districts to make numerous changes in District Budgets, District Administration, District Operations all occurring while there have been numerous changes in State and Federal regulations,

WHEREAS, the Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts (AISWCD) has constantly provided District Director Training as part of the Annual Conference Agenda. This Training has been excellent basic training. This training has been available for all Directors, but has been attended by a minimum number of Directors. The Association has not implemented a program to recognize those Directors who have completed the training,

THEREFORE, be it resolved, that the AISWCD develop an enhanced District Director and new Employee Training Program with appropriate amount of time allocated for training and a recognition and achievement program.

Approved by Wayne SWCD Board - May 15, 2017
Approved by AISWCD Board - June 6, 2017
Friendly Amendment Approved by Wayne Board on June 20, 2017

AISWCD Resolution 2018-01 | Logo for SWCDs

WHEREAS, Soil and water conservation districts (SWCDs) work to protect the greatest assets of Illinois – the rich, fertile soils and water resources of the state through strategic conservation efforts. Soil and water conservation districts, working in conjunction with agricultural as well as environmental stakeholders have for decades played a central role in efforts to protect and sustain the viability of Illinois’ natural resources for future generations,

WHEREAS, Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) are trying to improve their visibility across the state; and

WHEREAS, SWCDs are local units of government; and

WHEREAS, the AISWCD (Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts) has a logo for its organization, but their logo does not identify SWCDs specifically,

THEREFORE, be it resolved, by the Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts to help develop a state-wide logo for just SWCDs and request the AISWCD Executive Director source and create a logo that will become the “brand” identification that all Districts may use to identify soil and water efforts. Further request a budget line authorization, not to exceed \$1,500 to cover expenses.

UPDATE: AISWCD staff convened a volunteer committee to develop logo concepts. The preliminary concepts were presented to the AISWCD Board of Directors in the spring of 2019, and following board feedback, the number of designs was reduced and put to a popular vote amongst general membership. The leading design was unveiled at the 2019 Summer Training Conference & Annual Meeting. Several districts have since adopted the logo for use.

AISWCD Resolution 2018-02 | Forestry Management Implementation

WHEREAS, prior to European settlement, 40% of the land in Illinois was forest,

WHEREAS, forestland in Illinois today has decreased to only 12% of Illinois’ total land area of 35.6 million acres,

WHEREAS, of this 12% current forestland, 82% is privately owned,

WHEREAS, forest flora and oak regeneration are being negatively impacted by invasive trees and shrubs,

WHEREAS, landowners of forestland and Conservation Easements under Illinois CREP are interested in managing their timber and controlling invasives, such as, bush honeysuckle, autumn olive and black locust,

WHEREAS, the Illinois DNR Wildlife Action Plan: Forest and Woodland Campaign seeks to maintain and enhance the composition of Illinois’ existing forested habitats,

WHEREAS, available NRCS EQIP funding will support landowners to be able to afford to manage their timber; and WHEREAS, Illinois SWCDs and NRCS promote EQIP for Forestry Management Plans (FMP) and Forestry Management Implementation (FMI),

WHEREAS, only a limited number of FMP and FMI applications are approved in Illinois each year,

THEREFORE, be it resolved, that the Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts Board of Directors through the Forestry Committee will work with Illinois NRCS to apply for an RCPP to address brush management.

UPDATE: A first step in implementing this resolution has begun recently with the restoration of an active Forestry Committee in the spring of 2020. The committee had previously been inactive for a long-period.

AISWCD Resolution 2018-03 | S.T.A.R. (Saving Tomorrow's Agriculture Resources) Program

WHEREAS, the Strategic Plan for the AISWCD lays out "Clean Water & Healthy Soils" as our mission,

WHEREAS, Resolution 2017-2 sets forth Water Quality as a top priority for the AISWCD, with an emphasis on using the NLRS to help improve Water Quality,

WHEREAS, the Illinois Department of Agriculture has made a formal endorsement of the S.T.A.R. (Saving Tomorrow's Agriculture Resources) Program,

WHEREAS, the S.T.A.R. Program fits well in assisting the AISWCD implement portions of all 5 of the major goals set forth in our Strategic Plan,

5. Capitalize on Unique Asset: Local knowledge, presence and influence. Districts know the unique resource concerns of their District and are already advising farmers on the best use of conservation practices. The S.T.A.R. Program will "raise visibility" and help reach more farmers to get more conservation on the ground.

2. Enhance Relevance and Reputation for achieving Illinois conservation goals being the "local implementor" of conservation practices has always been one of the strengths of Districts. The NLRS provides the opportunity for Districts to enhance their leadership role. The NLRS provides a focused goal, much like the "T by 2000" campaign. The S.T.A.R. Program will provide a new way to focus on conservation practices, that will help district efforts get noticed. The S.T.A.R. Program could be our "thing". It will be what SWCDs become recognized for across the state. It will raise our visibility and enhance our relevance.

3. Increase Funding: The S.T.A.R. Program would provide our newly invigorated Foundation a "focused goal" to talk with potential funders. Water Quality and Healthy Soils are top of mind with many funders. The S.T.A.R. Program would give the AISWCD Foundation and the AISWCD a great reason to solicit funding that will help bring additional resources to local districts.

4. Improve partnerships for efficient program delivery, best conservation results and further funding opportunities. While many conservation efforts are ongoing, implementing the S.T.A.R. Program will provide an opportunity for districts to improve the organization and leadership of these efforts in Illinois. This will provide Districts with the opportunity to work with partners to: clarify roles, eliminate duplication, and improve cooperation. This leadership role will put us in a much stronger position as we write grants to help keep districts in the forefront of these conservation efforts.

5. Provide valuable services for partners and stake holders to help achieve conservation goals. Districts have consistently provided valuable services to our partners and stake holders, but it seems we struggle getting the credit and recognition for our efforts. By taking leadership through the S.T.A.R. Program, SWCDs will earn the

recognition that is necessary to raise our visibility and increase our credibility among legislators and other potential funders.

THEREFORE, be it resolved, by the Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts that we the SWCDs of Illinois, do support and promote the implementation of the S.T.A.R. evaluation and verification program in Illinois. We request the Illinois Department of Agriculture to add the S.T.A.R. Program to the PFC docket as another way to help meet the goals set forth in the NLRS and to help us reach our goal of “Clean Waters and Healthy Soils” for all of Illinois.

Approved by:
Champaign County SWCD – May 2019
AISWCD Board of Directors – June 2019
AISWCD Delegate Body – July 2019

UPDATE: AISWCD continues to promote the S.T.A.R. Program in numerous forms which include, promotion, committee service, and advocacy.

AISWCD Resolution 2019-1 | No-Till

WHEREAS, using no-till, strip-till and cover crops are the most effective ways to protect soil and water quality presently known,

WHEREAS, using these farming practices not only protects soil and water quality but also improves soil health, structure, texture and increases soil organic matter,

WHEREAS, tilling every acre every year twice is not sustainable economically, agronomically and environmentally but also degrades soil health in promoting wind and water erosion,

WHEREAS, using no-till, strip-till and cover crops provides some habitat for wildlife,

WHEREAS, using no-till, strip-till and cover crops not only uses less fossil fuels compared to conventional farming practices but also improves the environment by sequestering carbon from the air by the growing of cover and cash crops,

THEREFORE, be it resolved, that the Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts will strongly urge, promote, encourage and support the use of no-till, strip-till and cover crops as a way to protect soil and water quality in our use of conservation practices to improve our environment, our country and our world. In order to monitor the progress, the Illinois Department of Agriculture biennial transect survey will be used. A report of this survey will be given and discussed biennially at the Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts Summer Conference.

Approve by:
Iroquois County Soil and Water Conservation District
Recommended by the Kankakee River Basin Commission
AISWCD Board of Directors - June 2019
AISWCD Delegate Body - July 2019

UPDATE: The AISWCD continues to promote the use of no-till farming techniques via several sources including social media and newsletters.

AISWCD Resolution 2019-2 | Winter Conference Exploration

WHEREAS, the Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts each summer hosts an annual meeting for purposes of conducting association business, providing opportunities for education, training, and fellowship amongst conservationist,

WHEREAS, the Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts has held such a meeting for more than seven decades,

WHEREAS, the Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts has historically held this meeting in the central area of the state in hopes of making the event regionally accessible to all,

WHEREAS, the Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts holds this meeting in the highest regard as its most important annual event,

WHEREAS, the Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts recognizes the value of this annual event for purposes of conferring special honors and recognition for good works in the realm of conservation,

WHEREAS, the Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts recognizes the value of this annual event for purposes of providing opportunities for education and training to further advance conservation,

WHEREAS, the Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts recognizes the value of this annual event for the opportunities presented for engagement with conservation stakeholders that includes policymakers, news media, and the greater public for purposes of raising the reputation of Soil and Water Conservation Districts as the premier conduit for accomplishing conservation within the state,

WHEREAS, the Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts recognizes that hosting this event during summer months presents certain limitations in engaging Illinois policymakers whose familiarity with and support is critical and intrinsically linked to the Soil and Water Conservation Districts of the state,

WHEREAS, the Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts recognizes that hosting this event during winter months could provide for more opportunities to engage Illinois policymakers, as well as more SWCD Directors,

WHEREAS, the Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts should always seek to explore ways in which to do things better, and strengthen relationships with stakeholder groups and policy makers, and

THEREFORE, be it resolved, the membership of the Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts tasks the staff of the Association to explore through survey and other means the viability and desire to move the Annual Meeting & Summer Training Conference to a winter date, and present the governing Board of Directors with findings for potential implementation in the 2021 calendar year.

Approved by:

Champaign County Soil and Water Conservation District – June 2019

AISWCD Board of Directors - June 2019

AISWCD Delegate Body - July 2019

UPDATE: AISWCD staff have prepared a brief memo outlining a cost-benefit analysis which also includes a survey of member attitudes on the subject matter to the Board of Directors at the June 2020 meeting of the Board of Directors.

AISWCD Resolution 2019-3 | Policy & Procedures Manual

WHEREAS, the Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts has created a document that serves as a guide for Association governance and policies,

WHEREAS, the Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts refers to this document as the Resolutions, Policies and Procedures Manual,

WHEREAS, the Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts recognizes that this document is subordinate to the by-laws of the Association,

WHEREAS, the Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts in creating this document has provided a guide to define the best practices, policies, and procedures of the Association,

WHEREAS, the Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts realizes that this document can serve as an important resource to carry out the mission of the Association,

WHEREAS, the Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts has over the course of time offered numerous additions and revisions to this document,

WHEREAS, the Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts recognizes that in doing so, the document in present form contains numerous inconsistencies in matters of governance and policy,

WHEREAS, the Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts recognizes the need to remove portions of the document no longer useful to the governance of the Association or its operations, and

THEREFORE, be it resolved, the membership of the Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts tasks the staff of the Association to assess and provide a draft of the Resolutions, Policy, and Procedures Manual to the Board of Directors for possible adoption prior to the 2020 Annual Meeting of the Association.

Approved by:

Champaign County Soil and Water Conservation District – June 2019

AISWCD Board of Directors - June 2019

AISWCD Delegate Body - July 2019

UPDATE: AISWCD staff have updated the document and presented to the Board of Directors for review at the June 2020 meeting of the Board of Directors.

AISWCD Resolution 2019-4 | Land Use Council Election Results

WHEREAS, the Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts is a membership led organization charged with advocating for and empowering its Soil and Water Conservation District members,

WHEREAS, the Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts recognizes the individual county as the base unit of its governance structure,

WHEREAS, the Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts recognizes the Land Use Council, comprised of multiple counties, as another unit of its governance structure,

WHEREAS, the Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts recognizes regional Areas as yet another unit of its governance structure,

WHEREAS, the Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts is led by the locally elected leaders within these units of its governance structure,

WHEREAS, the Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts recognizes the need to appropriately document leadership changes resulting from elections and other transitions, and

THEREFORE, be it resolved, the membership of the Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts will require member districts to notify and transmit the results of council-level elections to the Association for purposes of documentation and outreach to new leaders.

Approved by:

Champaign County Soil and Water Conservation District - June 2019

Recommended by AISWCD Board of Directors - June 2019

AISWCD Delegate Body - July 2019

AISWCD ARCHIVED RESOLUTIONS

AISWCD Resolution 2004-3 | Change Current US Army Corps of Engineers Wetland Criteria

WHEREAS, the landowners with prime agricultural land are being affected by current Wetland Regulations,

WHEREAS, the current Us-Army Corp of Engineers Wetland Regulations require wetlands to have (3) criteria's,

WHEREAS, those criteria's include (1) Hydric Soil, (2) Hydrophytic Vegetation, and (3) Hydrology,

WHEREAS, the (1) Hydric Soils and (2) Hydrophytic Vegetation can not be changed based on their natural composites in the environment,

WHEREAS, the (3) Hydrology – (soil inundation or soil surface saturation) criteria has been determined to be 5% of the Growing Season,

WHEREAS, the Growing Season is being defined as the average number of frost free days in a year - (Dates with average temperatures above 28 degrees F. approx. 200 days),

WHEREAS, the Growing Season will vary between different regions, due to climatic differences,

WHEREAS, the rainfall events will vary between different regions, due to weather patterns and may occur more frequently in some places verses others places,

WHEREAS, 5% normally ranges from 7-15 days depending on location,

WHEREAS, hydric soil conditions are formed under wet conditions anytime during the year and over extended periods of time, and NOT just for 7-15 days/year and certainly NOT just during the growing season,

THEREFORE, be it resolved, that the Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts lobby to have the wetland hydrology criteria changed to a larger percentage of time. Hydrology at 15% seems to be fairer based on what really makes a soil wet or "hydric". Hydric soil by definition must have frequent and long durations of wet conditions. One or two weeks (5%) out of 200 days is not considered long durations.

Approved by:

Shawnee Land Use Council 14 – June 3, 2004

Natural Resources Committee – June 7, 2004

Legislative Committee – June 7, 2004

Resolutions Committee – June 7, 2004

AISWCD Board – June 8, 2004

Resolution 2004-3 PASSED with amendment on 08/02/04

Update: USEPA and USACE are both working to expand the definition of wetlands and waters of the United States to include all depressional areas that have hydric soil present or that might have water present at some time during the year as well as conveyances that are located in a flood plain or that have a significant nexus to areas in the flood plain. Numerous Agricultural and other groups are fighting the effort at the national level. This activity is taking place at the federal level with minimal ability for AISWCD to be involved other than letter writing.

TERMINATED AND ARCHIVED: July 28, 2015

AISWCD Resolution 2004-4 | Replace BLWR Region 1 Regional Representative

WHEREAS, the Illinois Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Land and Water Resources, Region One is lacking a Regional Representative due to the retirement of Tony Hamilton and,

WHEREAS, the Illinois Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Land and Water Resources, Region One is a leader in the conservation of our natural resources, applying conservation to the land, and in past and present leadership at the local, regional, state and national level,

WHEREAS, all Regional Representatives serve a vital and important role in furthering the quality of services from the IDOA,

THEREFORE, we, the members of Northwest Central Land Use Council 2, comprised of Bureau, Stark, Henry, Marshall, Putnam, Rock Island and Mercer counties request that the Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts actively encourage and assist the Illinois Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Land and Water Resources to successfully secure a Regional Representative to represent the already established Illinois Department of Agriculture Bureau of Land and Water Resources, Region One Soil and Water Conservation Districts. And therefore, we also strongly encourage the Illinois Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Land & Water Resources; to always secure a Regional Representative for all areas should a vacancy occur.

Approved by:

Northwest Central Land Use Council 2 – June 1, 2004

Approved by Legislative Committee – June 7, 2004

Approved by Resolutions Committee– June 7, 2004

Approved by AISWCD Board– June 8, 2004

Resolution 2004-4 PASSED with amendment on August 2, 2004

Update: The position has been filled.

TERMINATED AND ARCHIVED: July 28, 2015

AISWCD Resolution 2004-5 | Urban Manual Inclusion in NRCS National Handbook of Conservation Practices

WHEREAS, every county in the state of Illinois is experiencing some form of community Development,

WHEREAS, land disturbance associated with some community developments are having detrimental effects on soil erosion, and water quality in our communities,

WHEREAS, with the change in the Soil and Water District Act, every Soil and Water conservation District in Illinois has both large and small communities within their boundaries,

WHEREAS, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) National Handbook of Conservation Practices (NHCP) presently does not have conservation practices that are designed to address the erosion & sediment control and water quality problems brought on by this community development,

WHEREAS, the Illinois Urban Manual does contain conservation practices that were designed to address the problems caused by soil erosion & sedimentation in the development area,

THEREFORE, be it resolved, that the Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts request that the Natural Resources Conservation Service include conservation practices that address soil erosion & sediment control and water quality concerns brought on by community development in the National Handbook of Conservation Practices. The Illinois Urban Manual can be used as a guide for conservation practices already developed to address these resource concerns.

Approved by:

Land Use Council 16 – May 4, 2004

Approved by Legislative Committee – June 7, 2004

Approved by Resolutions Committee – June 7, 2004

Approved by AISWCD Board – June 8, 2004

Resolution 2004-5 PASSED on August 2, 2004

Update: Nothing more has happened with NRCS adoption of the Urban Manual. NACD adopted the Illinois Urban Manual as the national model at their 2005 Annual Meeting in Orlando, FL. The AISWCD has assumed ownership of the IUM and is actively engaged in maintaining and updating the manual on an ongoing basis.

TERMINATED AND ARCHIVED: July 28, 2015

AISWCD Resolution 2004-6 | AISWCD By-Law Amendments

Article 1-Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Resolution 2004-6, Article 1, PASSED with amendments on 08/02/04

Article 2-Section 2

Resolution 2004-6, Article 2, PASSED on 08/02/04

Article 3-Sections 1, 2, 3, 4

Resolution 2004-6, Article 3, PASSED on 08/02/04

Article 4-Sections 1, 2, 3, 4

Resolution 2004-4, Article 4, PASSED with amendments on 08/02/04

Article 5-Section 2

Resolution 2004-6, Article 5, PASSED on 08/02/04

Article 6-Section 2

Resolution 2004-6, Article 6, PASSED on 08/02/04

Update: The by-laws have been updated.

TERMINATED AND ARCHIVED: July 28, 2015

AISWCD Resolution 2005-1 | Travel Reimbursement

WHEREAS, the Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) has determined that each Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) will receive five-hundred dollars to be allocated for SWCD Directors and Administrative Coordinator travel to be used for Summer Conference/Training,

WHEREAS, the five-hundred dollar travel allocation has no reflection on or consideration of distance traveled or the number of participants in attendance at the conference,

THEREFORE, be it resolved that we, Land Use Council #1, ask the AISWCD to lobby the Illinois Department of Agriculture to change the amount of each SWCD's travel allocation to be reflective of the distance traveled to the conference and to the number of attendants from their respective districts.

Approved by:

Carroll County SWCD on May 2, 2005.

Northwestern Illinois Land Use Council on June 2, 2005.

Executive Committee - June 6, 2005

Legislative Committee - June 6, 2005

Resolutions Committee - June 6, 2005

AISWCD Board - June 7, 2005

Resolution 2005-1 PASSED on August 1, 2005

Action: The AISWCD has requested that the Illinois Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Land and Water Resources re-establish the practice of reimbursing Directors and Administrative Coordinators for their travel and lodging expenses while attending functions sponsored, hosted or called by the Bureau of Land and Water Resources. The Bureau is considering that request but had not made a decision as of July 26, 2006.

Update: Lack of funding has prevented this resolution from being implemented.

TERMINATED AND ARCHIVED: July 28, 2015

AISWCD Resolution 2005-3 | Statewide Conservation Practice Program

A statewide conservation cost share program has been in place for many years with SWCD cooperators putting conservation practices "on the ground" throughout Illinois. In the past, the state of Illinois Matching Funds were first sent to individual SWCD's, but if demand in a county was small, the remaining cost share funds were reallocated to other counties with greater need or more favorable weather. This process allowed for the full expenditure of CPP funds across the state. The process has been recently changed by auditors and has resulted in CPP money being sent back to the General Revenue Fund and not spent for its intended use.

WHEREAS, CPP funds are being sent back to the IDOA and the General Revenue Fund,

WHEREAS, several SWCD's have projects they cannot fund and have waiting lists for future projects,

THEREFORE, we would ask the AISWCD to lobby the Governor and the Legislature to change the law to allow the transfer of unused CPP funds between SWCD's, with the approval of the Regional Representative or other IDOA representatives.

Approved by the Whiteside County Soil & Water Conservation District - June 1st, 2005.

Approved by the Northwestern Illinois Land Use Council - June 2nd, 2005.

No Action Taken by Executive Committee - June 6, 2005

Approved by Legislative Committee - June 6, 2005

Approved by Resolutions Committee - June 6, 2005

Approved by AISWCD Board - June 7, 2005

Resolution 2005-3 PASSED on August 1, 2005

Action: The AISWCD investigated the potential for changes to the Illinois Grant Funds Recovery Act and determined that such an effort would stand little chance of success. For that reason, a proposal was provided to the Illinois Department of Agriculture in January 2006 to allow for joint AISWCD, Bureau of Land and Water Resources administration of the CPP program. The proposal was not accepted. However, the Bureau is investigating several options to more effectively allocate cost share money, including the possibility of utilizing intergovernmental agreements between districts. AISWCD authored SB 0824 which would provide authority to the Department to shift funds after they had been appropriated to SWCDs. The bill passed the Senate and was entered in the house before IDOA voiced opposition to the bill. AISWCD chose to hold the bill until acceptable wording could be worked out.

Update: Since 2005 IDOA and the BLWR have devised a means of reallocating unused cost share dollars to SWCDs where they can be used.

TERMINATED AND ARCHIVED: July 28, 2015

AISWCD RESOLUTION 2005-5 | TURNOVER TASKFORCE ACTION

WHEREAS, the Turnover Taskforce was formed by the Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts in November 2000 to address reasons for and ways to reduce employee turnover in the 98 Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Following are the steps taken by the Turnover Taskforce,

- . A survey was mailed to all SWCD employees, USDA/NRCS employees, and SWCD Directors.
- . Survey results indicated the need for director training, employee benefits, and employee compensation as the top three concerns attributing to the turnover rate of district employees.
- . Pay Scale Subcommittee was formed in April 2002 to address the issue of compensation.

WHEREAS, the Pay Scale Subcommittee was formed for the purpose of establishing a pay scale for the following reasons:

- . To give every District Board the opportunity to pay fair salaries.
- . To give Employees the incentive to do a better job and develop professionally.
- . Retain valuable and productive employees.
- . To provide state-funded line item monies to pay employee salaries.
- . Simplify and provide consistency in the contract/employee evaluation process,

WHEREAS, this information has been presented through:

- . Handouts and PowerPoint and made available on DARTS.
- . A presentation to Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation District Outlook Committee.
- . A presentation to the Illinois Soil and Water Conservation District Employee Association.
- . A presentation to all 16 Land Use Councils.
- . A presentation to Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation District Board,

WHEREAS, the Turnover Taskforce and Pay Scale Subcommittee found the first order of business is to secure the AC salary as a line item on the Operations Grant, and that Director Support and Training is Essential to Success of the Pay Scale Proposal and

WHEREAS, the findings of the Turnover Taskforce and the Pay Scale Subcommittee were approved by the Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts Board and the Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts Employees Association.

THEREFORE, be it resolved, that the Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts begin in fiscal year 2006 aggressively lobbying Illinois State Legislators in an effort to secure and channel funds for all districts in the state to meet the objectives of the Turnover Taskforce.

Approved by:

Greene County Soil and Water Conservation District - April 25, 2005

Western Illinois Land Use Council 8 - June 2, 2005

Executive Committee - June 6, 2005

Legislative Committee - June 6, 2005

Resolutions Committee - June 6, 2005

AISWCD Board - June 7, 2005

Resolution 2005-5 PASSED on August 1, 2005

Action: The AISWCD waged a successful campaign to increase operations funding for SWCDs by \$1,055,000 for FY 07. The Turnover Taskforce met May 23, 2006 and voted to send a letter to the Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Land and Water Resources requesting consideration of a 3.5% cost of living increase for all ACs and RCs and the establishment of a base salary line for Administrative Coordinators as recommended in the final Taskforce report. The letter included a request for the Bureau to collect and maintain training and experience point values for SWCD employees in an effort to begin implementation of the Turnover Taskforce Pay Scale Subcommittee's recommendations.

Update: A change in agency leadership, the significant loss of funds and the way SWCD funds are allocated makes this resolution impractical as worded.

TERMINATED AND ARCHIVED: July 28, 2015

AISWCD Resolution 2009-2 | Sharing Name, Address and Farm/Tract Data with FSA

Be it resolved that a way to share FSA producer/farm/tract/location information be restored. This data shall be in a format which can be linked in GIS to the CLU/tract layer.

Action: Resolution is being sent on to NACD for consideration for action.

Update: This is an issue that will have to be decided at the federal level. USDA is working on implementing this concept.

TERMINATED AND ARCHIVED: July 28, 2015

AISWCD Resolution 2009-4 | Support State-Wide Responsible Use of Phosphorus in Lawn Fertilizers

Be it resolved that the AISWCD shall actively pursue being included as a voting member of any legislative taskforce committee created to research and draft a responsible use of phosphorus in lawn fertilizers.

Action: To date, no legislative taskforce or committee has been created to deal with phosphorous in lawn fertilizers.

Update: Many fertilizer retail suppliers have voluntarily eliminated phosphorous from the fertilizers that are made available for lawn use. Implementation of the state's nutrient loss reduction strategy plan will have further impacts on the fertilizer industry and its routine use of phosphorous in lawn fertilizer blends.

TERMINATED AND ARCHIVED: July 28, 2015

AISWCD Resolution 2009-7 | AISWCD By-Law Changes

Be it resolved that the following changes and amendments to the By-Laws of the AISWCD be adopted by the voting membership.

Action: All approved changes have been incorporated into the AISWCD and AISWCD Foundation by-laws.

Update: The changes have been incorporated into the by-laws.

TERMINATED AND ARCHIVED: July 28, 2015

Resolution 2009-8 | Natural Area Guardian Areas

Be it resolved that action be taken to encourage all Soil and Water Conservation Districts to form Natural Area Guardian committees to assist in the management of natural areas within each district.

Action: A regular feature has been added to the AISWCD Conservation Catchall newsletter to highlight activities being conducted by Natural Area Guardian Committees.

Update: The NAG's ceased writing articles for the Conservation Catchall in May of 2013. AISWCD has not been successful in finding someone to replace the previous author.

TERMINATED AND ARCHIVED: July 28, 2015

Whiteside CO SWCD Resolution 2010-1 | Garlic Mustard Education

WHEREAS, diverse woodlands are an important sustainable natural resource in Illinois,

WHEREAS, diverse woodlands provide valuable habitat for a variety of mammals, birds, insects, and reptiles plus income and recreation for the public,

WHEREAS, Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria Petiolata*) an introduced invasive plant has become a serious threat to woodland diversity,

THEREFORE, be it resolved, that the AISWCD work with IDNR, USDA, other government agencies, and landowner groups to educate landowners to the threat of Garlic Mustard and eradication of the plant.

Approved by: Whiteside County SWCD Board - May 5, 2010

Rejected by: Land Use Council 1 - May 20, 2010

Approved by: AISWCD Board - June 8th, 2010

Update: AISWCD printed an article in the Conservation Catchall to draw attention to the Garlic Mustard issue.

TERMINATED AND ARCHIVED: July 28, 2015

AISWCD Resolution 2011-3 | Support EQIP Funding for Roofing Animal Feed Lots and Manure Storage Areas

Therefore: The AISWCD is to work with NRCS to modify the EQIP program to allow incentive payments for installing roofed covers over animal feedlots and manure storage facilities.

Update: NRCS announced immediately after the resolution was passed that NRCS was in fact developing an incentive payment program for installing covers for feedlots and manure storage areas.

TERMINATED AND ARCHIVED: July 28, 2015

AISWCD Resolution 2012-1 | Save Centralia Animal Laboratory Resolution

WHEREAS, the Centralia Animal Laboratory is located in a building that is owned by the state of Illinois and no monthly lease payment are required,

WHEREAS, the benefits provided by Centralia Animal Laboratory exceeds the estimated annual budget of approximately \$1 million dollars,

WHEREAS, the Centralia laboratory tests most than 400,000 livestock annually and has prevented livestock diseases and helped consumers ensure the meats are safe,

WHEREAS, the closure of the laboratory could lead to potential disease outbreaks if farmers have to travel over 200 miles to get their animals tested,

WHEREAS, the Centralia laboratory lab tests over 90,000 water samples annually and has protected water supplies,

WHEREAS, water samples must be tested in a 30-hour period and the closure of the Centralia laboratory will severely impact this important time-regulated procedure,

THEREFORE, be it resolved, that AISWCD will seek legislative support to keep the Centralia Animal Laboratory open.

Approved by:

Land Use Council 13 – March 15, 2012

AISWCD Board - June 14, 2012

Update: AISWCD met with Illinois Department of Agriculture leadership and encouraged the Department to continue operating the lab. The Centralia Lab was closed by an administrative decision made by the Department of Agriculture.

TERMINATED AND ARCHIVED: July 28, 2015

AISWCD 2012-3 | Forest Harvest Tax Resolution

WHEREAS, the Illinois General Assembly passed into law the Illinois Forestry Development Act in 1983, creating the IFDC Forest Development Cost Share Program and the Forestry Development Fund,

WHEREAS, the Illinois Forestry Development Act amended the Illinois Timber Buyers License Act establishing the collection of a 4% harvest fee,

WHEREAS, these funds collected and deposited into the Forestry Development fund provides for the expenses of the Illinois Forestry Development Council and provides funds for timber stand improvement cost share,

WHEREAS, significant balances have been accumulated and swept for several years,

WHEREAS, the timber stand improvement cost share program has been reduced and in some years, discontinued entirely,

WHEREAS, the 4% harvest tax fees continue to be collected for restricted purposes,

THEREFORE, be it resolved, AISWCD will support the reinstatement of the originally intended use of these funds.

Approved by:

Land Use Council 13 - March 15, 2012

AISWCD Board - June 14, 2012

Update: The forestry tax is being used by IDNR to provide forestry assistance to landowners through employing district foresters. IDNR contends that the funds are being used for landowner assistance and that the assistance would cease if current practice were to be altered. It is anticipated this practice will continue for as long as the state continues to have revenue generation and cash flow problems.

TERMINATED AND ARCHIVED: July 28, 2015

AISWCD Resolution 2013-2 | Sales Tax Relief for Cover Crops Resolution

WHEREAS, the use of cover crops is becoming an integral component in the protection of the productive soils of Illinois,

WHEREAS, the benefits provided by the use of cover crops include but is not limited to; prevention of soil erosion, building of organic matter, a natural form of pest management, safe development of nutrients for crop production, additional food source for grazing livestock and enhanced wildlife habitat,

WHEREAS, these same crops are currently eligible for sales tax relief when grown to maturity and harvested for seed production or used as a forage source for grazing livestock,

WHEREAS, the cost of planting additional non-harvested crops provide financial hardship for Illinois farmers, and yet improves the agricultural resources of the State of Illinois,

Be it therefore resolved that the Mercer County Soil and Water Conservation seeks the support of Land Use Council II and the Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts in this resolution.

Furthermore, that the Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts, work with the Illinois legislature for sales tax relief in the purchase of cover crop seed.

Approved by:

Mercer County Soil and Water Conservation District - April 16, 2013

Land Use Council II

AISWCD Board - June 11, 2013

Update: AISWCD met with officials with the Illinois Department of Revenue and provided documentation showing that cover crops were considered an input and should therefore be exempt. The Department issued a letter stating such.

TERMINATED AND ARCHIVED: July 28, 2015

ARCHIVED

AISWCD POLICIES & PROCEDURES

BASIC POLICIES

The basic policies of the Association are:

- To insure the Officers and Directors of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Councils of the Districts, and State Association Officers to the full acceptance of their responsibilities for leadership.
- To strengthen the basic American principle that the function of government is to serve and not to dominate or control.
- To seek public assistance for the application of proper land use and resource conservation measures which are in the public interest.
- To provide Soil and Water Conservation Districts with facilities and suggestions for making their objectives and democratic methods known.
- To seek effective support for Soil and Water Conservation Districts wherever it may be found, in government, industry, labor, commerce, in farm, civic, conservation and other organizations; among educators, the media, the clergy; and in all other segments of American society.
- To supply reliable information concerning the purposes and activities of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Councils, and the State Association to the press, radio, and television; to national and state legislators, local bodies, farm organizations, agricultural leaders, and all other responsible organizations and leaders concerned with these purposes and activities.
- To assist all public agencies concerned with the conservation, development, improvement, management and multiple use of renewable natural resources, to render more effective service to the people of this State.
- To encourage and assist Districts to assume and carry out appropriate local responsibilities under all existing federal and state authorities.
- To expressively reject any and all partisan political affiliations, to intervene in any political campaigns on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for elections to public office, National, State or Local.
- To assist Districts to analyze and gain full public understanding of conservation needs, evaluate current programs and their effectiveness; and develop needed new programs.
- To encourage Districts to establish priorities for the use of technical and financial assistance priority areas.
- To contribute in the event of the death of a Past President, current Executive Committee Member or current Member of the Board of Directors, a Memorial gift of \$25.00 (twenty-five dollars) to the ISWCDF Endowment Fund.
- To encourage each Council to be responsible for paying contest judging expenses according to their own policy of reimbursement.

- To consider, as a common practice, asking the immediate Past President to continue for one year as Delegate to NACD.
- To cooperate with agencies and organizations that work with people on an equal basis without regard for race, religion, gender, national origin or marital status. The Association encourages minority participation on county SWCD Boards and Committees.

Revised and approved - July 28, 1986

Revised - January 13, 1989

COUNCILS

- Each Council should develop its own By-Laws for its operation and may, from time to time, revise the By-Laws as may be necessary. All Council Officers shall be elected and serve in the manner described in the Council's By-Laws. It shall be the Council Chairman's duty to sign all necessary documents for contests, resolutions or other matters of business that are to be brought to the AISWCD Board of Directors **(July 2009)**.

TASKFORCES

- Standing Committees shall have the authority to recommend to the Board of Directors that a Taskforce be formed to address a specific issue. If the Board of Directors agrees by majority vote to establish the recommended Taskforce, then the Standing Committee Chair shall nominate or ask for nominations from the Association's Members, the Association's partners or the general public to serve as Members of the Taskforce. Taskforces may meet as often as necessary to accomplish their stated task. Upon completion of the task, a report will be provided to the Standing Committee and to the Board of Directors. Upon approval of the Board of Directors of the Taskforce's Report, the Taskforce may be dissolved or continued and given another task at the discretion of the Board **(December 2005)**.

DIRECTOR TRAINING

- In cooperation with the Illinois Department of Agriculture, The National Association of Conservation Districts and the National Association of State Conservation Agencies, the AISWCD provides an accredited training program for Soil and Water Conservation District Directors **(No date source citation available)**.

FINANCES

- The AISWCD Executive Committee shall, by majority vote of the Committee Members, have the authority to authorize the expenditure of up to \$2,000 without board approval **(December 2007)**.
- The AISWCD shall use the QuickBooks financial management program. Dues will be based on 3% of the SWCD operational funds received from the Illinois Department of Agriculture; but will not include funds used for health insurance **(Annual Meeting July 2008)**.
- An annual budget shall be prepared and presented for consideration to the AISWCD Board of Directors at its December Meeting **(December 2009)**.
- The Executive Director shall be authorized to expend up to \$5,000 on necessary expenses without Board authorization **(June 2018)**.

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

- The AISWCD, its staff and its Board of Directors shall not engage in partisan politics in any way and shall not endorse nor actively support any political party or candidate for election while representing the AISWCD **(December 2006)**.

MEETINGS & CONVENTIONS

- All Councils shall meet at least three (3) times a year or as often as the business of the Council requires **(By-Laws as amended and approved July 2009)**.

MEMBERSHIP

- Funds used to pay for health insurance will not be used to calculate dues regardless of the fund from which they are allocated **(No date source citation available)**.
- Dues are to be 3% of the Operations line contained in the State of Illinois Budget as approved by the General Assembly and signed by the Governor. Partners for Conservation Program cost-share funds may also be considered when calculating the 3% dues when those funds are designated as operational funds by the Department of Agriculture **(Annual Meeting July 2002)**.
- Active Voting Members shall be the Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Illinois, whose dues have been paid in full by January 1 of each year which qualifies them to be a District in good standing. Each shall be represented by one Delegate and one Alternate Current Director appointed by the District governing body. Each District shall have one vote. A District in good standing shall have privileges of being represented by the Association and Directors able to hold office, vote in Association matters, and participate in Association programs **(By-Laws as amended and approved July 2009)**.
- Affiliate Members of the Association shall consist of any individual, company, corporation or agency interested in supporting, financially or through active participation, the conservation, improvement, management, and multiple use of the natural resources of the State of Illinois. **(By-Laws as amended and approved July 2009)**.
- The yearly dues of the Active Voting Member shall be as recommended by the Board of Directors and approved by the Active Voting Delegates at each Annual Meeting of the Association **(By-Laws as amended and approved July 2009)**.
- The dues payment deadline may be extended by the President with concurrence of the Executive Committee for a named, definite period of time due to extenuating circumstances **(By-Laws as amended and approved July 2009)**.

PUBLICATIONS

- The AISWCD publishes the Protect and Conserve newsletter specifically for legislators. The newsletter will be published every month the General Assembly is in session and as may be desired or necessary during the months the General Assembly is not in session to keep legislators informed of issues related to soil and water conservation and natural resource protection **(AISWCD Resolution 2008-2, approved July 29, 2008)**.
- The AISWCD publishes the Conservation Catchall newsletter in electronic format every month except August. Each issue of the Catchall will contain an article provided by a representative of a Natural Area Guardians group. **(AISWCD Resolution 2009-8, approved July 24, 2009)**.

RISK MANAGEMENT

- The AISWCD shall provide liability insurance for its employees and Board of Directors (**No date source citation available**).
- The AISWCD shall provide adequate insurance to protect its property (**No date source citation available**).
- Districts participating in the AISWCD's contribution agreement with NRCS-Illinois via sub agreements with AISWCD will submit annual audits to AISWCD as part of risk management efforts (**February 2018**).
- Members of the Board of Directors will complete conflict of interest statements annually as part of risk management efforts (**December 2018**).

PERSONNEL

- The AISWCD Employee Handbook will serve as the guiding document outlining all employee personnel policies (**June 2018**).

CONTESTS

Auxiliary Poster Contest: The AISWCD Auxiliary sponsors a poster contest every year that highlights the annual NACD Soil and Water Stewardship Theme. The poster contest provides kindergarten through twelfth grade students throughout Illinois, with the opportunity to share their thoughts on soil, water and related natural resource topics. Awards are given out in the following grade categories: K-1, 2-3, 4-6, 7-9, and 10-12 at the AISWCD Annual Summer Conference. The winning state poster entries are then sent on to compete in the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) Poster Contest.

Auxiliary Photo Contest: This award is sponsored by the Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts Auxiliary. To be considered for this contest, nominees should be an amateur photographer (those who make less than 50% of their income from photography) and are Illinois residents. Photos must be submitted by the end of May. See your local SWCD for more contest details and entry forms. Photographs may be entered in the following categories:

Conservation Practices: Includes 26 conservation practices: contour buffer strips, contour farming & strip cropping, cover crops, critical area planting, crop residue management, crop rotation, diversion, field borders, grade stabilization structures, grass waterways, livestock management, manure storage and runoff control, nutrient management, pasture planting, pest management, riparian buffer, rotational grazing, stream bank & shoreline stabilization, terraces, tree planting, upland wildlife habitat, water and sediment control basins, well abandonment, wetland restoration, wildlife food plot, windbreaks, and woodlot management.

Close Up Conservation: Includes aquatic insects, clean water, crops and plants and water/rain, dirty water/sediment, hands/tools in soil-water-grains-on farm animals, irrigation, plants and soil/residue, plants/flowers/crops, recycling, prairie plants, compost, farm implements, water drops/drips/splashes, and worms/roots/ compost.

Conservation in Action: SWCDs in action: conservation planning, youth programs, office staff at work, interaction with landowners, field days, fairs, exhibits, board meetings and more, irrigation/crops and water/wildflowers and water, technical staff at work, wildlife, insects, livestock, aquatic life.

Ag/Conservation Across America: Barns, crops, farm practices, fence rows, livestock, implements and tools, ponds, ranching, youth, tree farm, farmers/landowners, grazing and pastures.

Youth Only: This category is designed for youth up to the age of 18. Photos must fit into one of the categories listed above.

AWARDS

Outstanding District Employee Award: The purpose of the Outstanding District Employee Award is to recognize those SWCD Employees who have went above and beyond the call of duty at their local Soil and Water Conservation Districts. This award is sponsored by the Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts Employees Association.

Conservation Farm Family Award: The object of this award is to provide recognition to an outstanding conservation family in each of the SWCDs that exemplifies Total Resource Management. Therefore, each SWCD is encouraged to sponsor a local contest and to submit their winner for the Land Use Council (LUC) competition. From the 16 LUC winners the AISWCD Awards Committee selects a Governor's Award Winner. Selection is completed prior to and announced at the AISWCD Annual Summer Conference. This award is sponsored by Brownfield Network, Prairie Farmer, Meijer Corp., NRCS, The Illinois Department of Agriculture and the AISWCD.

Outstanding Forestry Contribution Award: This award is sponsored by the Illinois Forestry Association. The purpose of this award is to recognize outstanding contributions in the field of Forestry. Individuals, companies, associations, etcetera are eligible to be nominated for this award.

Conservation Teacher of the Year: The purpose of the Conservation Teacher of the Year award is to recognize the outstanding education efforts of our Illinois Teachers and is sponsored by the Illinois Audubon Society, Illinois Department of Natural Resources and AISWCD. All K-12 educators in public, parochial and private schools are eligible to participate. To enter the contest teachers must fill out an entry form, and submit typewritten narratives describing their program.

Legislator of the Year Award: This annual award is sponsored by the AISWCD and is presented to an Illinois Legislator or Member of Congress who has demonstrated support for: protection of the state's natural resources, Soil and Water Conservation Districts programs and/or funding, any other issues that benefit Soil and Water Conservation Districts, District Directors or District Employees. Nominations for the Legislator of the Year Award are to be made to the Legislative Focus Area Committee Chair prior to the June meeting of the Board of Directors of each year.

Friend of Conservation Award: This annual award is sponsored by the AISWCD and is given to any individual, corporation, agency, organization or governmental unit that has in some manner benefitted natural resource conservation efforts on a regional or statewide basis. Nominations for the Friend of Conservation Award are to be made to the Legislative Focus Area Committee Chair prior to the June meeting of the Board of Directors of each year.

SCHOLARSHIPS

George McKibben Memorial Scholarship: This scholarship has been established by the AISWCD to assist agriculture students in their completion of their education at Illinois State University, the University of Illinois, Western Illinois University or Southern Illinois University. The student awarded the scholarship should demonstrate superior agriculture academic achievement, commitment to soil and water conservation and potential for innovation and/or leadership ability.