

ISWCDEA Board Meeting Minutes

July 6th, 2023

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m. by Sarah Earles.

ATTENDANCE:

Attendance was taken by Angie Grapperhaus.

Region 1: Karla Smith, Lorraine Foelske, Joey Deloian (all present), Richard Stewart (absent)
Region 2: Sarah Earles, Jackie Kraft, Jeff Woodyatt (all present), Becky Taylor (absent)
Region 3: Melissa Cauble, Rhonda Koehne, (all present), Ellie Crowe (absent)
Region 4: Kathy Bircket, Kristie Cooley (present), Mitchell Killough (absent)
Region 5: Angie Grapperhaus, Bethany Ingram, Jody Etheridge (all present), Nikki Isaacs (absent)

Advisors:

BLWR – Marty McManus, Brian Rennecker

AISWCD- Grant Hammer and Teri Fahey

NRCS – Eric Gerth

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:

Angie Grapperhaus announced she was resigning from the Clinton County SWCD and her position as the ISWCDEA Secretary will need to be filled.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Angie Grapperhaus made a motion to approve the agenda with the aforementioned addition. Karla Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Jeff Woodyatt made a motion to approve the minutes as printed from May, with the correction of the typo of Elise to Ellie, and Jackie Kraft seconded the motion. Motion carried.

PARTNER REPORTS:

BLWR:

- FY 22: There is 2M of FY 22 Cost Share funding that must be spent by December. Let Marty know if you need any extra funds or cannot spend yours.
- FY 23 District Reports went out.
- Brian Rennecker announced that job posting for the Region 5 Rep will be closed tonight. This position has not been filled since Brian had been promoted. The position will be housed in Springfield and will represent the Western IL territory. After this position is filled, Elliot's old regional position will be filled. Tammy Willis has permitted IDOA to be housed in the Stat Office.
- There are two aviary positions open because they are down three inspectors.
- There is a Farm Management Position open at the Henry White Experimental Farm. It is a contract job. IDOA is hoping to eventually have one position that handles the farm operations and another for the farm education side.

NRCS: Eric Gerth announced Tammy Willis as the official State Con. in IL. Her official start date was July 3rd. She is excited to come back to her home state and keep things going. She is looking forward to opportunities to grow and expand. NRCS has been focusing on wrapping up CSP and EQIP. They received additional funding and over 90% has been spent. IRA has been a big topic of discussion. There is 19 billion budgeted in program funds over a 5 year period. IRA funding, which focus is on climate smart agricultural practices, is a new funding pool this year. The IRA funding can be utilized for CSP, EQIP, ACEP, and technical assistance. NRCS is in the process of internal hiring. They have advertised or in the process of advertising for 40 new soil cons or soil con techs. They will be fortunate to fill half. They are in the process of talking to state partners. Willis wants to look at partner agreements to get boots on the ground. New opportunities will present themselves in the next fiscal year for partner agreements. NRCS understands that with new employees comes new training. Tammy is in the process of looking at the current computer seat waiver process and she asked the area assistants to weigh in on the situation. All waivers are on hold until she has more information. Eric mentioned he will be attending the AISWCD Summer Meeting.

NCDEA: Sarah Earles reported that the Regional Meeting will be held on September 12th in Detroit Michigan.

AISWCD: Grant said they are in full conference mode. Teri reported there are currently 230 registered and just shy of quorum for the conference. 47 delegates are registered. Quorum is 97 divided by 2 add one. Please check out the delegate list that Teri is sending and try to get neighboring counties to send someone.

IL SWCD Insurance: Melissa Cauble reported there were 86 employees registered for health insurance in June. Additionally, there are 163 employees enrolled in Life Insurance and Disability. Seven cons. planners will participate in the health plan. Reminder...The cons planners do NOT use our allocation. There are two new SWCD regular employees that will be added for July. Rates went up substantially this past year, but the performance rating is good though. All plans went up. The current balance in the account is 1,458,592.00, including the FY23 funds deposit. Make sure employees subscribe to IL all email address. Per Teri, she needs to manually add people so send to her.

TREASURER'S FINANCIAL REPORT: Karla Smith provided financials. See report. Rhonda Koehne made a motion to accept the treasurer's report as presented. Bethany Ingram seconded the motion. Motion carried. Karla received 1 check for 37 dues paid from Sangamon County. She will send out their email addresses to Melissa and Sarah.

OLD BUSINESS:

Summer Conference – Taking place on July 16th-18th at the Crowne Plaza in Springfield.

Employee Forum – Karla requested to send out an email to employees to submit topics they want discussed. A couple of topics brought up was to let employees know what ISWCDEA is doing for them and how to correctly complete the new FY 23 Operations Report. These topics could also be used for Winter Training.

Registration and Raffle Table Sign Up – There are 14 open spots. If attending conference, please sign up for 1 slot. Sarah will be sending out email with people plugged into spots.

Reimbursement- Angie Grapperhaus made a motion to reimburse LaSalle County for Vicky Heath's lunch, since she is the employee of the year winner. Rhonda Koehne seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Citrix Issues – Becky and Sarah reported that NRCS is open to discussions about Citrix. They addressed the question as to why the conservation planners got computer seats, which is because their grant is funded by NRCS and will work primarily on the NRCS workload. Becky and Sarah worked together to put a letter together regarding the seats. NRCS decided to put all waiver request on hold until they could review waiver process.

NEW BUSINESS:

Secretary of State Annual Report – The cost for Karla to complete and submit the report is \$10. Rhonda Koehne made motion to have Karla write check at Summer Conference. Jackie Kraft seconded. Motion carried.

Scholarship – Braden Hartmann, the son of Emily Hartmann of Bond County SWCD, won the scholarship and will be recognized at the Winter Training.

Winter Training Ideas – Come with ideas for the August 3rd Winter Training planning event.

Secretary Replacement – Angie Grapperhaus made a motion to nominate Rhonda Koehne to carry out the term of Secretary and Karla Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS INTERNAL:

1. Annual Plan of Work/By-Laws/Policies and Procedures- No report; Angie Grapperhaus
2. State Envirothon: No report
3. Employee Guidebook: No report; Sarah Earles
4. Farm Progress Show: The Committee is comprised of Melissa, Tara, Becky, and Sarah They are attending a meeting with Teri F when schedules align. The Employee Association mans the association booth. Teri will let us know what she does need for the show. Parking and orders need to be in soon so meeting date will change. Will discuss at our next meeting.
5. Fundraisers: Fundraisers for Winter Conference- Karla and Jackie don't have updates but will need to talk to each other. Sarah has tickets, roll of white and roll of red. They will need \$200 in change and Karla will bring. Sarah will bring cash box.
6. Legislative: No report; Sarah Earles & Becky Taylor
7. MOU: No report; Sarah Earles & Becky Taylor
8. Nominating: No report
9. Regional Training: Per Marty, nothing is scheduled or in the works right now.
10. Scholarship Report provided in new business.
11. Summer Conference: Need volunteers to coordinate the auction and work the day of.
12. Website: Lorraine added the Summer Conference information and started updating the minutes.

REGIONAL ISSUES/REQUESTS:

Region 1: No Report

Region 2: No Report

Region 3: No Report

Region 4: No report

Region 5: They will work on filling the open position due to Grapperhaus' departure.

CORRESPONDENCE: N/A

COMMITTEE REPORTS: – STATE:

Civil Rights: Melissa Cauble has agreed to sit on the committee until the end of her ISWCDEA term. She submitted a paragraph to the state office in order to remain on the Board. She has not heard anything back yet. The planning meetings will be held in the state office.

State Technical Committee: No report; Thad Eshleman
Training, Safety, and Health: No report; Spring Duffy

Meeting Dates for 2023

- Feb – 2nd Teleconference
- May – 10th In Person
- July – 6th Teleconference (usually related to ISWCDEA involvement in Summer Conference)
- August – 3rd In Person Plan Winter Training
- September – 7th Teleconference
- November – 2nd Teleconference to finish Winter Training Coordination
- December – 2023 Winter Training Dates (Dec. 5th & 6th)

Karla Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Melissa Cauble seconded the motion. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 10:16 a.m.

Minutes compiled by Angie Grapperhaus.