

AISWCD RESOLUTION 2009 - 1

Allow Tentative Approval for CPP Projects

WHEREAS, the release of Partners for Conservation dollars has been sporadic and irregular due to budget and financial issues.

WHEREAS, the receipt of these cost-share dollars by Illinois SWCDs has not always been timely for project construction seasons.

WHEREAS, currently SWCD staff can develop a plan, design the practice, and have all the paperwork completed, but a producer cannot begin actual construction/implementation until the SWCD receives the funding from the Illinois Department of Agriculture. When the funds are not received until after the construction season has ended, the producer must wait until the next construction season to begin work on the project.

WHEREAS, this process is inefficient, causing landowners to delay installation of practices that could already be preventing soil loss.

WHEREAS, it is important to both the Illinois Department of Agriculture and to Illinois SWCDs to utilize these funds in a timely and expeditious manner. The current system further compounds the problems with getting the funds allocated and spent in the required timeframe.

WHEREAS, language contained in the current application already notifies landowners that their application is contingent upon the receipt of funds by the SWCD.

THEREFORE, be it resolved the AISWCD shall lobby the Illinois Department of Agriculture to allow SWCD directors the opportunity to grant the tentative approval of projects so that construction/implementation can begin in the next available construction season. When Partners for Conservation money is received, the payment can be processed in a timely manner.

Approved by: Land Use Council #1 - May 29, 2009

Not Approved by: Resolutions Committee - June 9, 2009

Not Approved by: AISWCD Board - June 10, 2009

Not Approved by: AISWCD Voting Delegates - July 24, 2009

AISWCD RESOLUTION 2009 - 2

Sharing Name, Address and Farm/Tract Data with FSA

Whereas: the electronic owner/operator database was a project made possible through an NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Service) Technology Grant with the help of former NRCS Chief Pearlie Reed and State Conservationist, Bill Gradle, and;

Whereas: the purpose of this Excel spreadsheet is to make it easy to look up Farm Service Agency's (FSA) producer/farm/tract information. The only information contained in the file is name, address, farm/tract numbers, and township/range/section, and;

Whereas: the spreadsheet reads an owner/operator data text file that is generated by FSA Field Office staff, and;

Whereas: the data from this spreadsheet can be linked with the tract layer in ArcMap. One advantage is the ability to create specialized mailing labels, and;

Whereas: the FSA Field Office staff no longer has the ability to generate the text file because the necessary script as been classified as unapproved software and removed from FSA computers, and;

Whereas: the information is now out of date and no longer useful, making it difficult for NRCS and Soil and Water Conservation Districts to do their jobs effectively and efficiently, and;

Whereas: the NRCS and Soil and Water Conservation Districts are not able to create targeting mailings for the purpose of providing timely conservation program and practice information to cooperators with specific needs;

Therefore: 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.

Approved by: Land Use Council #7 - February 23, 2009

Approved by: Resolutions Committee - June 9, 2009

Approved by: AISWCD Board - June 10, 2009

Approved by: AISWCD Voting Delegates - July 24, 2009

AISWCD RESOLUTION 2009 - 3

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.

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.

***Approved by:** Land Use Council #1 - May 29, 2009*

***Not Approved by:** Resolutions Committee - June 9, 2009*

***Not Approved by:** AISWCD Board - June 10, 2009*

***Not Approved by:** AISWCD Voting Delegates - July 24, 2009*

AISWCD RESOLUTION 2009 - 4

Support a State-Wide ~~Ban~~ Responsible Use of Phosphorus in Lawn Fertilizers

WHEREAS, most soil in Illinois holds a sufficient amount of available phosphorus to support healthy turf growth; and

WHEREAS, excessive phosphorus in aquatic environments is a pollutant, contributing to the decline of oxygen used by aquatic species to support life; and

WHEREAS, phosphorus provides the fuel (1 lb. Phosphorus = 300 to 500 lbs. Algae) needed to transform lakes into a thick, smelly green environment; and

WHEREAS, using a phosphorus free lawn fertilizer (unless a soil test confirms the nutrient is needed) is a common sense, simple and cost effective way to reduce the amount of nutrients entering our waterways; and

WHEREAS, this ban is only applicable to non-crop land planted in closely mowed, managed lawns and does not include pasture, hay land, turf grown on turf farms, or any other form of agricultural production; and

WHEREAS, many municipalities and lake associations have enacted independent ordinances, however a state-wide ordinance would protect thousands of watersheds instead of just a few; and

WHEREAS, SWCD's have a long standing history of commitment to the conservation of soil and water, and therefore shall actively pursue being included as a voting member of any legislative task force committee created to research and draft a phosphorus lawn fertilizer ban;

WHEREAS, districts are committed group for public information regarding issues of fertilizer use and pollutants to our waterways; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Lake County SWCD this the 21st day of May 2009, that the AISWCD shall actively pursue being included as a voting member of any legislative task force committee created to research and draft a responsible use of phosphorus in lawn fertilizers. ~~ban and also ultimately support the passing of phosphorus lawn fertilizer ban by the Illinois State Legislature.~~

Approved by: Lake Co. SWCD - May 21, 2009

Approved by: Land Use Council #16 - May 29, 2009

Not Approved by: Resolutions Committee - June 9, 2009

Approved by: AISWCD Board - June 10, 2009

Approved with amendments by: AISWCD Voting Delegates - July 24, 2009

AISWCD RESOLUTION 2009 - 5

Dedicated Funding for Marketing Plan

Whereas, there is a marketing plan being developed to promote all 98 SWCD's uniformly throughout the state.

Whereas, the new marketing plan needs to have dedicated funding each fiscal year to be successful.

Whereas, the dedicated funding source should come from AISWCD dues set aside for implementing the marketing plan.

Therefore, 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.

~~The dedicated marketing account will be managed separately from general revenue funds and any money remaining at the end of the fiscal year shall rollover but not replace funding for the following fiscal year.~~

Approved by: Marshall-Putnam Co. SWCD - February 11, 2009

Approved by: Land Use Council #2 - February 23, 2009

Not Approved by: Resolutions Committee - June 9, 2009

Not Approved by: AISWCD Board - June 10, 2009

Approved with amendments by: AISWCD Voting Delegates - July 24, 2009

AISWCD RESOLUTION 2009 - 6

EQIP Program in Illinois Allocation of Funds to SWCDs

Whereas, the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) was reauthorized in the 2002 and 2007 Farm Bills to provide a voluntary program for farmers that promotes agricultural production and environmental quality as compatible goals. Prior to 2002 the program required that at least 75% of the funding be allocated to priority areas and 25% be used for statewide issues. This often resulted in some local non-priority areas not receiving any EQIP funding unless some of their applications were approved in the statewide issues ranking process.

Whereas, the 2002 Farm Bill legislation changed the EQIP program to allow for all the funding in a state to be allocated to local working groups so that ranking and selection of applications could be done at a local level thus providing funds to all geographic areas of the state and assuring that all areas would receive some funding.

Whereas, NRCS in several surrounding states has adopted a policy of allocating EQIP funds to the SWCDs for ranking and allocation of funds.

Whereas, The State Technical Committee is the body that would recommend any changes to the current Illinois' policy to the NRCS State Conservationist.

Whereas, given the current amounts of funding for EQIP in Illinois, an allocation to SWCD local working groups in the state would provide for a sizeable pool of funds at the local level for ranking and selection of projects. Ranking criteria would then be developed at the local level and projects ranked and funded locally rather than statewide. Using a process similar to other states would allow for funding expensive animal feeding operations in a statewide pool and also allocate funding for local pools for all other resource concerns.

Therefore be it resolved that the AISWCD work with the State Technical Committee and NRCS in amending the allocation process in Illinois to provide for a statewide pool for ranking, selecting, and funding Animal Feeding Operations and for allocating the remaining EQIP funds to the 98 SWCD's for ranking, selecting, and funding of all other resource concerns.

Adopted by Council 12 on August 26, 2008

Chairperson,



Donald Beisiegel

Approved by: Resolutions Committee - June 9, 2009

Approved by: AISWCD Board - June 10, 2009

Not Approved by: AISWCD Voting Delegates - July 24, 2009

AISWCD RESOLUTION 2009 - 7

AISWCD By-Law Changes

The attached resolution includes all changes that have been made to the By-Laws since last year's Annual Meeting. Changes dealing with including Focus Area Committees and word clean up were approved last December but are also included in the resolution to provide a comprehensive list of changes for the members to vote on. While not required by the By-Laws, past practice has been to amend the By-Laws through the resolution process. We will continue with that practice. All changes have been reviewed and approved by the By-Laws Taskforce.

Whereas: The By-Laws of the Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts are the operational framework for the AISWCD and

Whereas: It is important that the operational framework of the AISWCD be as complete and accurate as possible and

Whereas: Certain changes in operational procedures have occurred over the past few years and

Whereas: the By-Laws need to reflect those changes and need to be as correct and complete as possible

Therefore be it resolved: The following changes and amendments to the By-Laws of the AISWCD be adopted by the voting membership.

ARTICLE #1

Authority - Purpose - Power - Place of Business - Membership - Dues

Section #6: Dues. The dues of the Association shall be paid in full annually by January 1.

- B. *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 #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 or by other available electronic means.*

ARTICLE #3

Board of Directors-Officers -Executive 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).

A. 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.

C. 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.

ARTICLE #4

Eligibility - Term of Office - Compensation - Duties

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.

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.**

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Approved by: Resolutions Committee - June 9, 2009

Approved by: AISWCD Board - June 10, 2009

Approved by: AISWCD Voting Delegates - July 24, 2009

AISWCD RESOLUTION 2009 - 8

Natural Area Guardian Areas

Whereas: In 1991, the Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts Act approved the designation of Natural Area Guardian committees by the district governing body for the purpose of "...managing natural areas on the Illinois Natural Areas Inventory and natural areas of regional or local significance..." (405/22.07b)*

Whereas: Within that 18 year span, Natural Area Guardian groups have been formed and remain active in the counties of Lee, Bureau, Whiteside, Henry, LaSalle, Montgomery, and Rock Island. Although the achievements of these groups have been phenomenal, they represent only a percentage of the districts in Illinois. As a result, many natural areas, whether woodland, wetland, or remnant prairies, are not being managed by volunteers or by IDNR personnel.

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.

**Illinois Soil and Water Conservations Districts Act
405/22.07b Natural Area Guardians*

The governing body of any soil and water conservation district may designate Natural Area Guardians for the purpose of managing natural areas on the Illinois Natural Areas Inventory and natural areas of regional or local significance designated by the governing body within the district. The powers of the Natural Area Guardians shall include the following:

- 1. Locating and inventorying natural areas of regional or local significance located in the district.*
- 2. Managing or restoring natural areas in the district by itself or in cooperation with other organizations.*
- 3. Assisting landowners in managing natural areas at the request or with the acquiescence of the landowner.*
- 4. Providing education programs concerning natural areas and otherwise promoting public awareness of natural areas and their preservation.*

No individual or entity other than a district governing body...shall designate Natural Area Guardians.

Natural Area Guardians shall have no power with respect to those areas designated as National Historical Sites or Areas.

Approved by: Whiteside Co. SWCD - June 2009

Approved by: Resolutions Committee - June 9, 2009

Approved by: AISWCD Board - June 10, 2009

Approved by: AISWCD Voting Delegates - July 24, 2009