

CONSERVATION CATCHALL

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AISWCD Staff:

Kelly Thompson
Executive Director

Gina Bean
Administrative Coordinator

Matthew Hanauer
IUM/Watershed Coordinator

CREP Resource Specialists

Catherine Dunn
Sheryl Philips
Timothy Royer
Dan Sahn
Jake Vancil

AISWCD OFFICE UPDATE

Congratulations to Kelly Thompson on her new position as AISWCD's Executive Director. Her new position began September 16, 2014. Kelly has been employed at AISWCD since March 2012. Kelly previously held the Watershed/IUM Coordinator role where she worked with many districts and partners in updating the IUM material and worked on watershed related activities.

Over the past several years, Kelly has been involved in annual meeting/summer conference preparation, development of Legislative Day, grant writing and many other duties as assigned. Please feel free to contact Kelly any time with questions, comments or concerns at Kelly.Thompson@aiswcd.org or by phone at (217) 744-3414.

Congratulations also goes out to Gina Bean on her new position as AISWCD's Administrative Coordinator. Her new position began October 1, 2014. Gina has been employed at AISWCD since November 2012 as the AISWCD Office Assistant.

We are trying to tie up loose ends at the office. With that being said, if there is any unfinished business that you or your District has with AISWCD, please let Kelly Thompson know. We want the transition to be as smooth as possible which means starting fresh and taking care of anything that has not yet been addressed.

AISWCD CREP Resource Specialist Update

Jeremy Pruden left AISWCD's CRS position in Brown County on September 19, 2014 to take a job with FSA. He was an amazing employee and worked hard everyday. Jeremy was also always eager to help new CRSs coming on board.

Kelly Thompson and Wade Louis will be conducting interviews next week and hope to find a suitable replacement that can start November 1, 2014.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - MYRON KIRBY

kirbyfarms@yahoo.com

Hello from the President!

We wish Rich Nicols the very best in his retirement and appreciate all of his hard work in his many years at AISWCD. We have also accepted a resignation from Sherry Finn as the Administrative Specialist and wish her and her family health and happiness.

We have new and exciting changes in the office. Kelly Thompson has taken over as Executive Director and Gina Bean has accepted the position of Administrative Coordinator. Matt Hanauer is working full speed ahead on the 604B grant and has already attended many meetings in northern Illinois. The office will be in good hands. We are working on the transition to get everyone up to speed. And as your President I am always available to help solve any problems that arise. You can always call my personal cell phone at 309-838-9067.

As you read this fall will be in full swing with harvest under way and most everyone is talking about record yields. We know the farmers and land owners are very busy in the fields so our offices are pretty slow this time of year. So just a thought ... Go to their office. Their combine, trucks, tractors are their offices this time of year. Many of them are equipped with an extra seat and I know that they would enjoy someone to talk to. This would be an excellent time to talk about conservation with them because you will be riding across their property. It is a great opportunity to assess what is happening and recommend programs to help them. The coffee shop in the mornings or the elevator are other great places to get the word out. As you can see, they may not have time to come to us. Let's make time to go to them.

Have a safe harvest and be careful and always remember ...

The Association works for the Districts so they may do their job of conserving our soil and keeping our water and air clean.



-Myron

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S NOTES - KELLY THOMPSON

Kelly.thompson@aiswcd.org

I hope everyone is enjoying their fall thus far. Weather here in Springfield has been pleasant for the most part.

I'd just like to say that I am very excited and eager for my new position as Executive Director of AISWCD. As with any new position there will be challenges; however, I look forward to working with districts and partners to bridge communication gaps and make way for new opportunities.

Some items we are currently working on at AISWCD:

- ◆ Waters of the US comments
- ◆ Meeting with Partners
- ◆ Organizing the AISWCD office

Communication...the human connection...is the key to personal and career success.
~ Paul J. Meyer

- Kelly



IUM Watershed Coordinator—Matt Hanauer

matt.hanauer@aiswcd.org

My second month in this new position has been full of new experiences with new people. During the second week of this month, I attended 4 meetings and traveled more than 800 miles. As the month nears its end, I've spent more time in the office, working on helping to write grants while our office remains in a state of transition. In short, if I'm not ready for anything after this month, I may never be!

As I mentioned, the first two weeks of this month were filled with travel and preparation. Monday the 8th, I met with several conservation partners in Warrenville. Projects concerning non-point source pollution from organizations across the state were discussed and we toured a fresh-water laboratory. We were walked through the process of raising mussels in a contained environment while discussing practices that will improve their habitat in the wild. Tuesday, I was back in Springfield and hosted a phone conference of the Technical Review Committee, where we discussed groups that would work with Hey & Associates in their work to create standards for Temporary Stream Crossings and Sediment Forebays. That work will continue through the beginning of March 2015. Wednesday, I drove to Libertyville, IL where I reported on new updates of the IUM to the Lake County Municipal Advisory Committee. Other presenters from an engineering firm and the local fire department talked about the handling of hazardous material. Thursday, I was again in Springfield for a brief meeting with the IEPA to discuss the possibility of a new grant aimed at water quality throughout the state. On Friday, I got a little time to debrief myself, go back over my notes from the meetings and begin working on new tasks.

These new tasks are what I've been working on for the remainder of the month. I was asked to help write a portion of the Resource Conservation Partnership Program proposal with the American Farmland Trust. I put together notes for the testing of phosphorus in targeted watersheds. In order to do that effectively, I got in touch with several professionals that have tested for phosphorus in or around these high priority areas. I also began groundwork for the new grant the AISWCD hopes to apply for in November. If we receive these funds, the grant will bring additional funding for the RCPP testing areas with a focus on finding practices that will give the most improvements on an individual-farm and watershed scale. I've also spent time reading through the latest draft of the Illinois Nutrient Reduction Strategy and the proposed "Waters of the United States" amendment to the Clean Water Act from the US EPA.

All of this work will be very beneficial for the future of water quality for Illinois. I am also continually trying to familiarize myself with the needs of this state and what is already being done by local watershed groups. If anyone reading this is taking part in a watershed project or knows of one in your county/community that I haven't gotten involved with yet, let me know! I enjoy meeting the people behind conservation and I want to be available to help in any capacity I can. I also wouldn't mind sharing experiences and learning from what your group has accomplished. My email is matt.hanauer@aiswcd.org. Let me know of upcoming events and I'll do my best to make it to some of them. Thanks for doing your part to influence the environmental quality of your watershed, your state, and your planet!

Matt Hanauer



Administrative Coordinator Information - Gina Bean

gina.bean@aiswcd.org

This month is proving to be very busy and exciting for me! As of October 1, 2014 I have taken over as the Administrative Coordinator. In addition to my already assigned duties, I will be taking over the Quarterly Board meetings, Annual Meeting (with the help of the Planning Committee), CREP, bills, and the other many things Sherry Finn took care of here at the office.

Me and Kelly have jumped into our new positions and have had meetings with NRCS, EPA, and the CREP Resource Specialists. I will be meeting with the Northfield in the next couple of weeks, as well, to make sure everything is set up for our upcoming meetings. Rest assured, change at AISWCD is not necessarily a bad thing. We are already working hard to make sure programs and opportunities continue to happen for the Districts.

I can not thank all of you enough for your many kind words. When everything is extremely busy in the office, it has been nice to stop and read the encouraging emails from our Districts and Partners welcoming me into my new position.

Please remember that if we are unaware of something, then we can not fix/change it. If there is ever anything you or your District need, please let us know. We are always here to help and will point you in the right direction if we do not personally know the answer.

Have a wonderful fall and a safe Halloween!

Gina Bean

Focus on SWCDs - Marshall Putnam SWCD

Here in the Marshall-Putnam SWCD, we do our part to educate not only the youth of our district, but the adults as well. For 16 years, we have been able to host a Lady Landowners Tour for the women that live in our district. These tours go all over the state, teaching and exploring the different aspects of agriculture and how our everyday lives can be affected with and without it. For the last 4 years, we have had the privilege of having one of our directors take lead on these tours. After attending her first tour in 2010, she decided for the 2011 tour, that she'd like to help. As the years have progressed, her involvement has increased and has been phenomenal. Diana goes out of her way to help plan, set details, gather supplies and even make the reservations at some of the events. While there is no payment involved, just the gratitude of the district and an average of 50 women each year, Diana has never complained and has volunteered every year to take charge. With her knack for ideas on where to visit, the tour has seen such places as the Morton Arboretum, Long Grove Confectionary, The Rock Island Arsenal and John Deere Pavilion. Each year, there is lunch, history, agricultural education and sometimes even a bit of shopping. While it sometimes makes for a long day, the feedback from each tour is outstanding. Without the help of Diana, we would not have as nice of a tour as we are able to provide to our ladies. The staff and Board of Directors for the Marshall-Putnam SWCD would like to extend a huge "THANK YOU" to Diana for all her hard work and her time. Without her, the tour wouldn't be as nice or as fun as it is right now!! We can't wait to see where the tour takes us next year and the years to come!



-Stacy Hill



Legislative Corner - Mike Hoffmann

Here in the state capitol things are pretty quiet during October in an election year. All of the statewide elected offices, from the Governor to the Comptroller, are up for election. All of the Illinois House of Representatives and one-third of the Senate seats are on the ballot as well. So more attention is focused now on campaign activities than on legislative issues.

But legislative issues are being discussed in the campaigns, and the outcomes of those campaigns will make a difference in how those issues are handled when the legislature and all the elected officials return their attention to the Statehouse.

The upcoming legislative calendar likely depends on what happens in the election

The General Assembly returns to Springfield for the veto session after the election. The veto session is scheduled for two weeks: from November 19 – 21 and again from December 2 - 4. The purpose is for the House and Senate to consider bills that may have been vetoed by the Governor (of which there are few this year), but customarily they also consider legislation that may have been left unresolved in the spring or that might arise as an “emergency”. According to the Illinois Constitution, any bill in the veto session that would become effective before June of the next year requires an “extraordinary” majority of 3/5 of the elected members in each chamber to pass.

On the second Wednesday in January, the new, 99th General Assembly will be inaugurated. (Each G.A. goes on for two years, after which all bills that did not pass are declared dead, and new bills must be introduced in the following G.A. to begin the process over again.) We won’t know until that time what the scheduled days will be for the 99th G.A.

What is not scheduled is a possible lame-duck legislative session in January before the 99th G.A. begins. Historically, the House and Senate may meet to consider bills still outstanding in that G.A. In January, the Constitution says, any bill, regardless of its effective date, needs only a simple majority to pass. So legislative leadership may want to wait until January to try to pass bills for which they suspect they cannot get a 3/5 vote.

An example of that could be the extension of the income tax rates that are set to expire in January. If the income tax rate is lowered, then the state budget, the experts say, will face a massive deficit. Whether a vote will be taken on that in January may well depend on the outcome of the election in November and who will be in the Governor’s mansion in January.

So, depending on who wins the November election, the House and the Senate might be here for a lame-duck session in early January.

REMEMBER: KEEP YOUR STATE LEGISLATORS EDUCATED ON SWCD ACTIVITIES

Mike

SWCD Insurance Update—Melissa Cauble, Montgomery County SWCD

What's Going On:

It is October and that means it is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. An added benefit of the Affordable Care Act is that it broadens women's health services and with our insurance, there is virtually no charge for mammograms. I urge all of you with family history of breast cancer and those of you over the age of 40 to have annual mammograms. I borrowed the following information from HealthLink's website:

What is breast cancer?

Breast cancer occurs when abnormal cells grow out of control in one or both breasts. They can invade nearby tissues and form a mass, called a malignant tumor. The cancer cells can spread (metastasize) to the lymph nodes and other parts of the body.

Breast cancer that begins in the ducts of the breast is called ductal carcinoma. It is the most common type of breast cancer.

What causes breast cancer?

Doctors don't know exactly what causes breast cancer. But some things are known to increase the chance that you will get it. These are called risk factors. Risk factors that you cannot change include getting older and having changes to certain genes. Risk factors you may be able to change include using certain types of hormone therapy after menopause, being overweight, and not getting enough physical activity.

But many women who have risk factors don't get breast cancer. And many women who get breast cancer don't have any known risk factors other than being female and getting older.

What are the symptoms?

Breast cancer can cause:

- A change in the way the breast feels. The most common symptom is a painless lump or thickening in the breast or underarm.
- A change in the way the breast looks. The skin on the breast may dimple or look like an orange peel. There may be a change in the size or shape of the breast.
- A change in the nipple. It may turn in. The skin around it may look scaly.
- A fluid that comes out of the nipple.



See your doctor right away if you notice any of these changes.

Can breast cancer be prevented?

At this time, there is no sure way to prevent breast cancer.

Some risk factors, such as your age and being female, cannot be controlled. But you may be able to do things to stay as healthy as you can, such as having a healthy diet and being active. Knowing your risk of getting breast cancer also can help you choose what steps to take.

Talk to your doctor about your risk. Find out when to start having mammograms and how often you need one. If your doctor confirms that you have a high or very high risk, ask about ways to reduce your risk, such as getting extra screening, taking medicine, or having surgery.

If you have a strong family history of breast cancer, ask your doctor about genetic testing. A blood test can check for changes in the BRCA genes that may increase your chance of getting breast cancer and ovarian cancer.

Reminders:

- * *October invoices are due to me by October 15*
- * *If you intend to add a new spouse or dependent to either your life or health insurance, it MUST be done within 31 days of your marriage or birth/adoption. Any dependents added after that will need to have completed medical history statements and the decision will be left to underwriting*
- * *One district check for all invoices is acceptable, but not mandatory. Please do what you are comfortable with*
- * *With the Affordable Care Act, full time hours are now considered to be 30 or more. So if you are working at least 30 hours per week you are considered full time*
- * *Results of Employee Survey: thank you everyone for participating in the worker's comp audit and employee survey. Survey numbers are here:—*

| FY 2015 Employee Totals | |
|----------------------------------|------------|
| Total Full Time | 148 |
| Total Part Time | 33 |
| Total Employees | 181 |
| Districts with only one employee | 34 |



ISWCDEA CORNER - *STEPHEN MILLER* *ISWCDEA REGION FOUR REPRESENTATIVE*

website: iswcdea.org

The ISWCDEA board has been busy organizing the upcoming Winter Training. Many informative training sessions have been lined up for December 2nd and 3rd. Among other things, attendees will have the opportunity to learn more about the new Transect Survey Excel Program, RCPP, watershed planning, cover crops, drainage water management, long range planning, MS Publisher, MS OneNote, accounting methods, Envirothon, FOIA responsibilities, and website development. With the variety of sessions available, AC's and RC's are always both encouraged to attend. This is one of the best networking opportunities of the year, so bring questions and/or ideas and plan on attending this December!

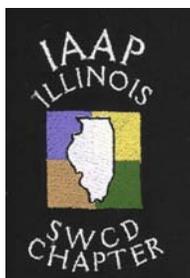
As a reminder, the ISWCDEA is still accepting Outstanding District Employee nominations until October 17th, so there is still plenty of time to get one submitted. There are a lot of SWCD employees out there who go well above and beyond their required duties and deserve to be recognized for their dedication. If you missed the award application that was emailed out; or if you have any questions about the application, please contact one of your ISWCDEA district reps.

As always, feel free to contact your ISWCDEA representatives any time with questions, comments, or concerns. We are always happy to hear from you!

Stephen



*Mark those calendars!
Winter Training will be here before
you know it!
December 2nd and 3rd at the
Northfield Inn, Springfield.*



ILLINOIS CHAPTER - IAAP - *SALLY FERGUSON, PRESIDENT*

IAAP is planning a website panel for Winter Training. The session will feature websites made with GoDaddy's Website Builder, WordPress.org, Webnode, and Webs.com. If you use a company other than those listed above, and you would recommend it, please let me know so we can share that information as well. The panel will cover pros, cons, cost, how to update the website, and more. The session will also briefly cover information required on the website for FOIA and OMA purposes.

Speaking of websites...there is a great website that creates an "Add to Calendar" link for Outlook, Google, Hotmail, Yahoo, and iCal Calendars. The website is www.addthisevent.com. Skip all the jargon at the beginning, and go to "Generate". From there you can quickly create a link for calendar events that you can place in your website or emails for things like conservation events, tree sale pick-up, board meetings, etc... I recommend leaving the "Organizer" and "Organizer Email" fields blank.

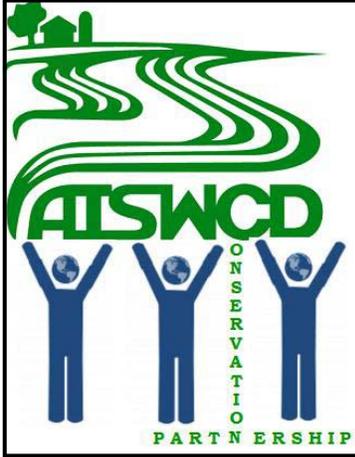
Have a Happy Fall!

Sally



TODAY!

BECOME A MEMBER



*Association of Illinois Soil and Water
Conservation Districts
Conservation Partnership*

*Business, Consumer, &
Health Service Discounts!
TireBuyer Discounts!*

Perfect gifts for family members!

*For more information visit our website ~OR~ call Kelly Thompson at 217-744-3414
www.aiswcd.org/donate-membership/*

Look who has already joined!

| | |
|---|--|
| <p><u>Affiliate Members:</u> Marc Anderson Sheryl and Richard Philips Sue Davis Della and Charles Moen George and Cathy Hypke</p> | <p><u>Lifetime Members:</u> L&J Enterprises</p> <p><u>Corporate Members:</u> Patten Cat</p> <p><u>District Members:</u> None Currently</p> |
|---|--|

Affiliate Membership Reminder!!!!

Please remember that the money raised through the Conservation Partnership will go towards education activities and the Illinois State Envirothon.

Since Districts pay dues to AISWCD, they are given the discounts at cost at the rate of \$12. This \$12 is given directly to NAC who handles the discounts. AISWCD makes no profit off of a District's \$12. Once a District becomes a member, they will be able to use the discounts for office purposes.

The \$12 fee must be paid yearly to be eligible to receive discounts.

**Please consider joining today and support our Education activities!
Thank you!**



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- Columbus Day - October 13, 2014—AISWCD Office Will Be Closed
- Happy Halloween! - October 31, 2014
- Thanksgiving Holiday—November 27 and 28, 2014—AISWCD Office Will Be Closed
- Veterans Day - November 11, 2014 - AISWCD Office Will Be Closed

2014 QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING DATES

- December 2014 Quarterly Board Meeting - December 8 and 9, 2014
- Christmas Party - December 8, 2014 @ 6:00 pm

Grant Opportunity!

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources is pleased to announce a call for proposals for 2014 State Wildlife Grant funds.

IDNR - Office of Resource Conservation (ORC), is responsible for requesting and administering State Wildlife Grants to support the updating, monitoring and implementation of Illinois' Wildlife Action Plan. Annual State Wildlife Grant allocations to each state / territory are apportioned according to the states' population and land area, and are contingent upon annual appropriations by Congress

To help ensure that monies are applied to projects that most efficiently and effectively address the needs identified by the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources has developed a competitive grant process for the State Wildlife Grants.

Projects submitted for funding should address one of the following funding themes:

- Assessing wildlife health and identifying actions needed to promote wellness in Species in Greatest Need of Conservation
- Providing demographic or life history information for Illinois Species in Greatest Need of Conservation where limited knowledge exists
- Implementing conservation actions for Illinois Species in Greatest Need of Conservation that are well documented or part of established plans
- Inventorying Species in Greatest Need of Conservation or their habitats in Conservation Opportunity Areas
- Identifying and/or prioritizing conservation actions in priority landscapes
- Documenting the effects of invasive species on Species in Greatest Need of Conservation

The deadline for submitting pre-proposals is **October 24th 2014**.

The pre-proposal form can be found at:

<http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/conservation/IWAP/Pages/IllinoisStateWildlifeGrantProgram2014.aspx>

Please pass along this announcement to any conservation groups that you feel might be interested.

AISWCD Mission: *To represent and empower Illinois' SWCDs*

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