

CONSERVATION CATCHALL

In this issue:

Tech Soup	1
President's Message	2
Executive Director's Notes	3
IUM/Watershed Coordinator	4
Administrative Coordinator	5
Legislative Day 2015 Info	6
Legislative Update	7
ISWCDEA Corner	8
AISWCD Affiliate Membership	9
IL ALL Directions	10
Calendar	10

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 Sahm

Sarah Still

Jake Vancil

Discounted Software for SWCD Offices



techsoup[®].org
the place for nonprofits and libraries

AISWCD & member SWCDs are members of Tech Soup! Does your SWCD office need new software or technology to fulfill its job duties then you've come to the right place! Software and electronics at a discounted price is now available for purchase through AISWCD! Please contact the AISWCD office at (217) 744-3414 for more information on this new and exciting program. Here's a sample of what software and electronics are available:

- * Microsoft Office Suite
- * Adobe Acrobat
- * Intuit QuickBooks Premier
- * ESRI ArcGIS
- * GoDaddy Website builder
- * Computer Equipment
- * Mobile Devices (i.e. Tablets, Smartphones)
- * Online Fundraising

www.techsoup.org



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - MYRON KIRBY

kirbyfarms@yahoo.com

My trip to New Orleans for the NACD Annual Meeting turned out to be a very productive conference. I had the opportunity to see the new Client Gateway Program and use it on a computer. Our districts will have the opportunity to be involved with NRCS and the new system to compile information. We made many new contacts at the conference and discussed what was happening in the Chesapeake Bay area and their regulatory system on nutrient reduction management. They are regulated to handle their nutrient runoff to the point of monetary fines. With all of the wonderful information I gained, I look forward to next year's event in Reno and everything I will learn there.

As we work through the new Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy in Illinois, we are working to make this a voluntary system and I know the SWCDs want to be involved in this new program to help our producers and landowners.



State Rep CD Davidsmeyer

Tuesday at 10:49 PM

I appreciate all of my Soil & Water Conservation folks meeting with me today to talk about all of the great things they are doing for our area. Also had a meeting tonight in Pittsfield to discuss community living for our neighbors with Developmental Disabilities. The 100th District is blessed with wonderful, caring people!

Like

Comment

Share

This is what State Representative CD Davidsmeyer had to say on Facebook about his meeting with the SWCDs.

As you read this the Governor should have proposed his new budget, but as of this writing we have not seen it. We hope that our funding will not be reduced and we are working with our Legislators to increase funding to Districts. We had a meeting with Calhoun, Jersey, Greene, Macoupin, Morgan, Scott, and Pike County employees and directors and met with their state Representative, C.D. Davidsmeyer on Tuesday, February 10, 2015. I would like to thank him for taking time out of his busy schedule to meet with the Districts and the attention he gave to their concerns.

We are gearing up for the AISWCD Legislative Day on March 10, 2015 and you are all invited to carry the message to our Legislators to discuss the needs of our Districts. If you are unable to make it that day, please take time to call your Representative or Senator and let them know how important the SWCDs are to the future with the new programs and conservation of our soil, water, and air along with managing our nutrients.

It's almost time for March Quarterly Boards. Packets have gone out through email and all Board Members need to RSVP to Gina Bean by March 2, 2015.

With March right around the corner it is time to THINK SPRING...

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

AISWCD's mission is to Represent and Empower Illinois SWCDs

AISWCD Board is made up of 16 directors (plus 4 area Vice Presidents) from what is called a Land Use Council (LUC). The LUC consists of between 5-9 Soil and Water Conservation Districts. The purpose of the LUC is to be a voice for local SWCD concerns. The LUCs typically should meet once every quarter either before or after the AISWCD Board meetings in Springfield. The local SWCDs would bring their concerns to the LUC meeting to discuss and get feedback. If the issue is of high importance then the LUC will decide to send the issue with their AISWCD board member to the next AISWCD Board meeting in either March, June, September or December.

AISWCD works for the districts. If the board doesn't hear local SWCD concerns how can they fix a problem? It is imperative that your LUC meet, at a minimum, twice a year. AISWCD staff can assist in coordinating your LUC meetings. We have access to several resources that might be of assistance when planning your LUC meeting. Please see below for more information or call the office (217) 744-3414 to get more information on how we can help repair broken LUCs!

1. Conference Line is available at a minimal fee if your LUC can't make in-person meetings
2. We can schedule the meeting for you by using Doodle.com
3. Use of VTC at the USDA Service Center locations. Call for locations available.

**Let's work to repair
our LUCs TODAY!**



Kelly Thompson

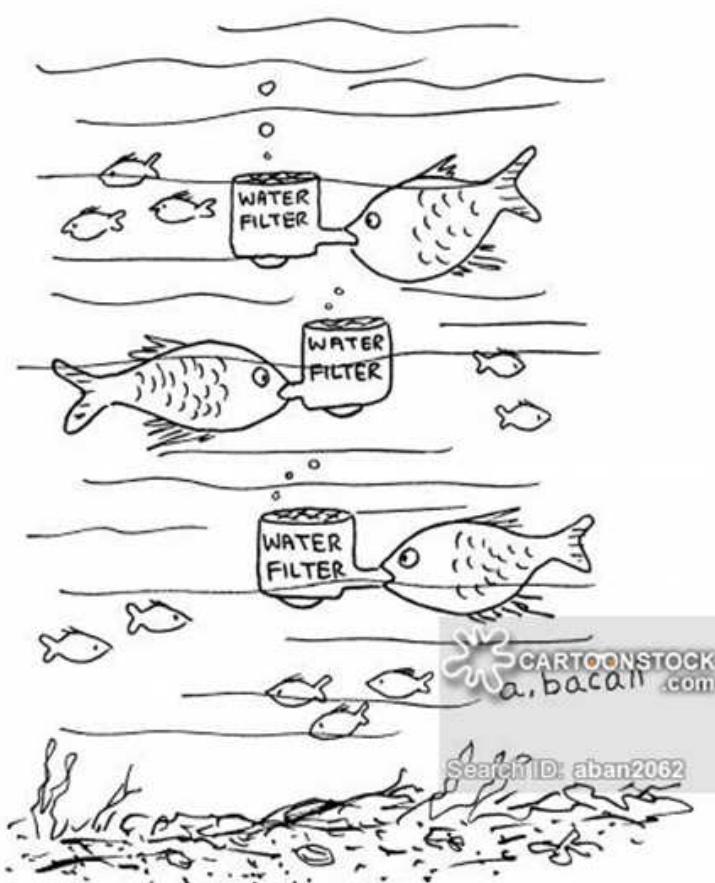


IUM/Watershed Coordinator—Matt Hanauer

matt.hanauer@aiswcd.org

Despite taking a week off for vacation during the first full week, January was a productive month. Work on several updated and new standards made significant progress this month and we should have a couple up for public review during the month of February. Other accomplishments for the month include posting engineering drawings on the IUM website, writing a quarterly report for the IEPA, an IUM presentation in Jefferson County, and some planning for future water quality work throughout the state.

One of the big changes for this month was a link on the IUM website that now allows anyone to access drawings for standards in .dwg files. Previously, whenever a contractor or engineer wanted to plan one of the practices already in the Urban Manual, they had to request the editable copy of the drawing from me. This link takes out the middle man (myself) and allows much easier and faster access to all of the available drawings. You can find the link under the Standard Drawings heading.



Near the end of the month, Kelly and I sat in on a conference call between Sangamon County SWCD and the Illinois Corn Growers Association. They discussed ways they could potentially work together for the future and water quality could benefit because of their connections to landowners throughout the state. I will keep in contact with the environmental side of the Corn Growers organization so that we can use their assistance whenever possible. Kelly and I also discussed the future of this Association of Illinois SWCDs and how we might better focus on water quality and set up the SWCDs and the Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy for success. Several ideas were raised and will be brought before the Association board sometime this year.

I hope you all have had a safe January! IEPA has set August 1st as the due date for any Section 319 applications this year. If anyone would like to discuss their options, I'd be glad to help!

Matthew Hanauer



Administrative Coordinator Information - Gina Bean

gina.bean@aiswcd.org

Annual Meeting award applications are now available online!

Listed below are the submission deadlines for all awards/forms/registrations.

We thank everyone in advance for taking the time to fill out the applications
and believing in someone enough to nominate them.

2015 Awards

<i>Date</i>	<i>Award</i>	<i>Due To</i>
June 1, 2015	Teacher of the Year	AISWCD
May 15, 2015	Conservation Farm Family	LUC Chairman
June 1, 2015	Conservation Farm Family	AISWCD
June 1, 2015	George McKibben Scholarship	AISWCD
June 1, 2015	Forestry Contribution Award	AISWCD
June 1, 2015	Poster Contest	AISWCD
June 1, 2015	Photo Contest	AISWCD
June 30, 2015	ISWCDEA Scholarship	Joe Bybee

2015 Forms

<i>Date</i>	<i>Form</i>	<i>Due To</i>
June 1, 2015	Voting Delegate	AISWCD
June 1, 2015	Resolutions	AISWCD or Tom Beyers
July 1, 2015	Auction Item	AISWCD
July 1, 2015	Director Service Award/Photo	AISWCD

2015 Registration

<i>Type</i>	<i>Dates Postmarked</i>	<i>Fee</i>
Early Bird Registration	April 15, 2015 through May 15, 2015	\$ 40
Registration	May 16, 2015 through June 30, 2015	\$ 45
Late Registration	July 1, 2015 through July 8, 2015	\$ 55

Gina

Association of Illinois Soil and Water
Conservation Districts and Partners present...

March 10, 2015

Legislative Day & Reception

10:30 am - Meet at the Department of Ag/Discuss day's events

11:00 am - Lunch at IDOA (Paid for by the participant)

12:00 pm - Wrap up lunch and head to Capitol

12:15 pm - Group photos at the Capitol

1:00 pm to 3:30 pm - Legislative Visits

4:00 pm to 6:00 pm - Reception (Legislators are invited to attend)

RECEPTION

Please join us for FOOD, DRINKS, and CONVERSATION!

*Boone's Saloon
301 West Edwards Street
Springfield, IL 62704
4:00 pm to 6:00 pm*

REGISTRATION/LUNCH ORDER

Legislative Day Online Registration and Lunch Order Form must be completed and sent to AISWCD by **Friday, February 27, 2015.**

Registrations must be submitted online. Lunch Order Forms must be emailed or faxed to Gina Bean.

Email: gina.bean@aiswcd.org Fax: 217-744-3420 Phone: 217-744-3414

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE—Mike Hoffmann, AISWCD Lobbyist

99th Illinois General Assembly Begins

Illinois' 42nd governor and 99th General Assembly were sworn into office during the second of week of January.

As you all know, the big change in state government is in the Governor's Office. For 12 years, Illinois has been governed by Democratic majorities in both the House and the Senate working with a Democratic governor. Now that **Governor Bruce Rauner** has begun to staff up, we are getting our first looks at how the new administration will look. Many of his hires are known to us; some are not. Of particular relevance to us is the appointment of **Philip Nelson** as the Secretary of Agriculture. Some of you may know him from his tenure as President of the Illinois Farm Bureau. The Governor has also named his legislative director and staff, and I am happy to say that these are quality folks, most of whom I know from my work in the legislature. The new legislative director for the Dept. of Agriculture is **Laura Sinclair**, who is well aware of the issues facing SWCDs from her time on the House Republican Staff.

Although there are 18 new members of the House and 3 new members of the Senate, there is little change in the partisan makeup of those bodies. Seventy-one Democrats and 46 Republicans are seated in the House, the same split as the last G.A. The Senate has 39 Democrats and 20 Republicans after the minority party was able to pick up one seat in last November's election. **John Cullerton** of Chicago remains as Senate President, and **Mike Madigan** of Chicago returns for a record-breaking 17th term as Speaker. He is the longest-serving State House Speaker in the history of the United States.

Of course, our major focus is on the state budget, and the new governor and the legislative leaders will have their hands full in dealing with that. With the lower income tax rates in effect since January 1, there is less revenue to fund programs. We know that the administration is looking at potentially deep cuts to address the shortfall, so we will remain on alert. Our first glimpses of where these cuts might fall will probably come on February 4, when Governor Rauner gives his first State-of-the State speech, and on February 18, when he delivers his first budget address.

Legislative Outreach

Inauguration Day for the General Assembly was Wednesday, January 14, and we began our legislative outreach on that day. **AISWCD President Myron Kirby, Executive Director Kelly Thompson**, and I made our way to a number of receptions for members of the House and Senate from both sides of the aisle. In fact, we were able to have a good visit with Governor Rauner at one of those receptions, where we filled him in on the importance of SWCDs and he expressed his support for agriculture. We will be continuing our outreach with several upcoming visits to legislators in their districts (in coordination with the local SWCDs) and with ongoing contacts at the Statehouse. One of the issues we are stressing is the role of SWCDs in implementation of the **Illinois Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy** coordinated by the Illinois EPA. It is a voluntary program now, but the cost to Illinois could be enormous if voluntary action fails.

I cannot stress strongly enough the need for the districts to contact and build relationships with your legislators. They want to know the people in their districts, and they like to know what is going on in their districts, especially if state money is spent there. Legislators are much more engaging when I talk to them if they have already heard from you.

And don't forget our Legislative Day on Tuesday, March 10 ending with a legislative reception at Boone's Saloon that evening. Last year's reception was a nice success with a good turnout from the districts and the legislators. Some good relationships were fostered that day.

The Legislative Calendar

Just a reminder of the key dates for the 99th General Assembly.

- **February 4.** Governor Rauner delivers his first State-of-the-State address.
- **February 18.** The new Governor presents his budget recommendations for fiscal year FY 2016, which begins on July 1. This marks the start of the budget process, and the day when we will see what the Governor proposes for funding SWCDs.
- **March 10. AISWCD Legislative Day.** Make plans to attend so that we have a strong delegation to visit with our legislators.
- **March-May.** Hearing and meetings on the budget and legislation will held as the House and the Senate debate the many bills that are introduced.

May 31. The final scheduled day of the 2015 spring session. Can the Republican Governor and Democratic legislature reach an agreement on the budget in time for the scheduled adjournment?

REMEMBER: KEEP YOUR STATE LEGISLATORS EDUCATED ON SWCD ACTIVITIES

ISWCDEA CORNER - STEPHEN MILLER

ISWCDEA REGION FOUR REPRESENTATIVE

website: iswcdea.org

The next regular ISWCDEA board meeting is coming up on Thursday, February 19. The board will be meeting in Springfield to discuss a variety of topics, including our plans for the 2015 Farm Progress Show and employee training session ideas for Summer Conference. If there is a topic you would like discussed in a training session, or if you have any innovative ideas that would be good for the Farm Progress Show, let your ISWCDEA rep know.

Edgar County AC/RC Tara Hopkins represented the ISWCDEA at the National Association of Conservation Districts Annual Meeting in New Orleans earlier this month. The meeting took place February 1-4 and drew over 900 attendees and many expo exhibitors from around the country. Tara was able to bring back information on outreach efforts for this year's Stewardship Week, a new MOU between NACD, NRCS, USEPA, and RC&Ds, and the continued effort to secure more funding and work for SWCDs. Illinois was well-represented in New Orleans; Tara attended the Annual Meeting along with several other representatives from the AISWCD.

Once again, we encourage everyone to plan on attending the 2015 Legislative Day coming up on Tuesday, March 10th. This is the best opportunity we have to tell our legislators about the good work that SWCDs do every day. A strong showing of SWCD directors and employees will help our message resonate at the capitol.

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



MARK THOSE CALENDARS!

Envirothon registrations
are due.....

APRIL 10, 2015

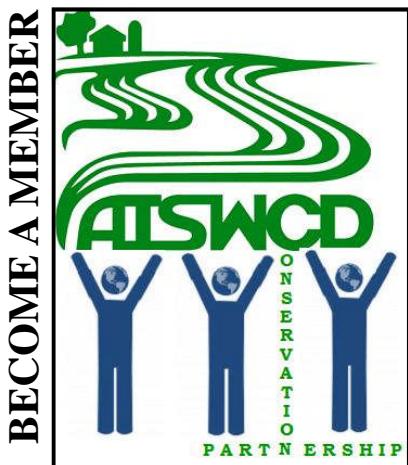
Contact Sondra Baker
with any questions:

Sondra.baker@il.nacdnet.net



The flyer features a circular logo for the "ILLINOIS RIVER CONFERENCE" with a blue and green design. To the right, the text "Save the date!" is written in red cursive. Below the logo, it says "Hotel Pere Marquette, Peoria, IL" and "October 27-29, 2015". The text "A Watershed Partnership" is centered below the date information. At the bottom, there are three circular icons: a fish, a corn stalk, and a boat. The text "ILLINOIS RIVER CONFERENCE" is printed below these icons. The bottom section contains the text "Discover what's been happ'n on the river and the land!" and "Partnerships working towards improving the Illinois River system", separated by decorative wavy lines.

TODAY!



*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
wwwaiswcd.org/donate-membership/*

Look who has already joined!

Affiliate Members:

Marc Anderson
Sheryl and Richard Philips
Sue Davis
Della and Charles Moen
George and Cathy Hypke

Lifetime Members:

L&J Enterprises

Corporate Members:

Patten Cat

District Members:

Christian County SWCD

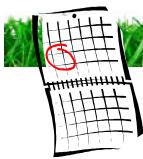
Affiliate Membership Reminder!!!!

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!

- Legislative Day - March 10, 2015—AISWCD office will be at event.
- St. Patrick's Day - March 17, 2015
- First Day of Spring!!!! - March 20, 2015
- Easter - April 5, 2015

2014–2015 QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING DATES

- **March 2015 Quarterly Board Meeting** - March 9, 2015 (Exec Board Call on 10/6/15 at 9:00 am)
- **June 2015 Quarterly Board Meeting** - June 9 and 10, 2015
- **Annual Meeting** - July 27 and July 28, 2015

IL ALL Email

It can not be stressed enough on how important it is for SWCD employees and directors to be on the Illinois All email system. Many important emails come through this system daily. We understand that directors do not want all of the emails and that is why a Director email was set up.

Please, as a courtesy, remember to not "reply all" when responding to emails on IL ALL. This email system has members from AISWCD, SWCDs, Directors, and Partners.

If you are a director please consider signing up for either email.

Please share this information with any new staff or directors that come to your SWCD.

Benefits of IL ALL:

- Emails from ISWCDEA
- Emails from NACD forwarded by Kelly Thompson
- Dues invoices are sent out through this email and you would know when they are expected back to AISWCD.
- Annual Meeting information
- Legislative Day information
- Quarterly Board updates and board packets

Subscribe to IL ALL email:

il.all-subscribe@aiswcd.org

When the email pops up to subscribe, all you have to do is type "subscribe" in the subject or memo line and send. You will receive a confirmation email back from our provider.

To Unsubscribe from IL ALL email:

il.all-unsubscribe@aiswcd.org

Follow the same directions as above but in the subject line type "unsubscribe."

Subscribe to Director Email: Director-subscribe@aiswcd.org

Unsubscribe to Director Email: Director-unsubscribe@aiswcd.org

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

4285 N. Walnut Street Rd.
Springfield, IL 62707



Phone: (217) 744-3414
Fax: (217) 744-3420
www.aiswcd.org