

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 Sahm

Sarah Still

Legislative Day 2015 Fact Sheet

Attendance Totals for the Day (Visits and Reception)

SWCD Directors = 23

SWCD Employees = 36

AISWCD Staff = 4

Lobbyist—Mike Hoffmann

Partners

- Debbie Fluegal and Shanon Ramsey- Trees Forever
- Philip Nelson and Steve Chard—IDOA
- Dick Breckenridge—IEPA
- Chris Whittom—IDNR
- Woody Woodruff—Illinois Stewardship Alliance
- Marie Bunting, Colleen Bogner, and Judy Beyers—AISWCD Auxiliary

Legislator Attendance at the Boones Saloon Reception (Who Checked In)

Representatives

- Carol Ammons
- Steven Anderson
- Mark Batinick
- Daniel Beiser
- Avery Bourne
- Dan Brady
- Peter Breen
- Terri Bryant
- C.D. Davidsmeyer
- Ken Dunkin
- Randy Frese
- Norine Hammond
- Frank Mautino
- Donald Moffitt
- Thomas Morrison
- Reginald Phillips
- David Reis
- Patrick Verschoore
- Keith Wheeler

Senators

- Neil Anderson
- John Sullivan

Photos from the day can be found on pages 4 through 6.





PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - MYRON KIRBY

kirbyfarms@yahoo.com

From your President,

The grass is greening up, the flowers are popping up. Spring is here!

Field work will be starting very soon. Those of you that are in that business be very careful this spring. We want everyone safe and ready for summer conference. At the March Quarterly Boards, a new agenda for summer conference was approved. One of the many changes will be the Association business meeting time. It will be in the afternoon of day two. As always, there will be an auction, and we still appreciate every District sending in their auction items. We are actively seeking 10 major auction items worth \$500 for the live auction. Other items will be sold as silent auction items around the room.

Right after Quarterly Boards we had Legislative Day. What a great success! I want to thank all the District directors and staff for coming and going to the Capitol and the reception after. We were happy to see IDOA Director, Philip Nelson, and State Treasurer Mike Frerichs along with other dignitaries at the reception. Many state Senators and Representatives came to talk about conservation and our budget. I want to thank the Association staff, the employees, and our lobbyist Mike Hoffmann for their hard work in making the day such a success.

As I write this, the NRCS contract is close to being finalized for the Client Gateway. This contract will also include computer date entry and CRP contribution agreements. As that is finalized, you will read about it on IL ALL. I thank NRCS and our State Conservationist Ivan Dozier for their help in making this possible.

At Quarterly Boards, the Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy taskforce was formed with Tom Beyers being named Chairman. Members include myself, Lee Bunting, Kelly Thompson, Steve Stierwalt, Steve Fulling, Don Beisegel, Kara Downin, and Terry Davis. Steve Stierwalt, Kelly Thompson, and myself have had meetings with Jean Payne from the IL Fertilizer and Chemical Association. We have also met with Laura Gentry from the IL Corn Growers. The future holds meetings with IL Farm Bureau, IEPA, and others as we move on to work with other groups on this undertaking.

Everyone has read about the IL budget problem. To say the least it is tight. We are working with IDOA's, Philip Nelson and Steve Chard and the Governor's Office of Management and Budget to procure our second allocation. You can help. Please contact your Representatives and Senators from your area. Ask them to help and talk to GOMB to get our funds released. Contacting them will help us all.

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

-Myron

**LUC Envirothon competitions are starting to take place!
Don't forget to have registration forms into
Sondra Baker by April 10, 2015!**





EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S NOTES - KELLY THOMPSON

Kelly.thompson@aiswcd.org

Legislators received many handouts from us during the Legislative Visits on March 10, 2015. I would like to share some of the information. The information below, is something you can use when talking to local Legislators concerning our funding problems. Sometimes saying "funding has been cut" does not have as much impact as showing them actual numbers.

SWCD Funding Levels (2002—2015)		
YEARS	FUNDING FOR SWCDS	FUNDING CUTS (%)
2002	25 million	0%
2008	19.5 million	20%
2015	7.5 million	70%

Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) **funding** has been **cut** by **70%** over the last 13 years! SWCDs have approximately \$78K to run an office and get conservation on the ground in Illinois.

- \$50k for Operations (staff salary, office supplies, etc.)
- \$15k for Insurance (Liability & Health Insurance for employees)
- \$13k for Programs & Cost-Share (conservation BMPs)

SWCDs are operating at minimum levels. If funding is not restored to 2002 level, SWCDs will close their doors this year!

Legislative Day 2015: Briefing at IL Dept. Of Agriculture



This year's Legislative Day brought many people from different organizations and Districts together for one main cause. Directors and Employees from the SWCD's attended a information briefing in the morning at IDOA. Topics included talking points on what SWCDs do, funding issues, and the Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy. We lost some attendance due to sicknesses, but overall had a great turn out! Café Moxo did a wonderful job, once again, on preparing over 70 lunches for our attendees.



Attendees look on as they are given information for the day.

Thank You to Mike Rahe at IDOA for setting our group up with a wonderful meeting space for our briefing. this year.



Legislative Day 2015: Legislative Visits at the Capitol and Stratton Building



District Directors and Employees gave great reviews of meeting with Legislators. Many were able to meet with them in their offices or during a casual elevator ride. Our groups did a wonderful job spreading the word and even talked to Legislators that were not on their contact list. Legislators were given information concerning SWCD funding and the Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy. They were also given green ribbons to wear in support of the SWCDs. Next time you see a Legislator, ask them where their green ribbon is. The AISWCD office has extras for Kelly Thompson to pass out while she is at the Capitol to anyone she sees not wearing one.



The AISWCD Envirothon Coordinators, Team DeWitt, were very excited to attend the Environmental Committee meeting and hear them talk about Envirothon Day.

Legislative Day 2015: Reception at Boones Saloon



This year's Legislative Reception at Boone's Saloon was considered a success! We had 21 Legislators that checked in at the registration table and we are sure there were others there that missed the table due to the amount of attendees. Boones worked so well with our event and even Legislators were voicing that they enjoy the reception being there.

The Legislative Reception is not only a great way for SWCD Directors and Employees to meet and talk to Legislators, but it is also an excellent opportunity for them to meet with our Partners and each other.

A special mention goes to Denise Willenborg from Effingham County SWCD. Instead of being home celebrating her birthday, she took time to come to Springfield and work hard for the SWCD family. Thank you Denise! And thank you to EVERYONE that worked so hard on this event and attended this year!

See you at Legislative Day 2016!



DISTRICTS MEETING WITH LEGISLATORS OUTSIDE OF LEGISLATIVE DAY!

AISWCD understands that attending Legislative Day in Springfield is not always an option. Here are how a few Districts have taken time, in their area, to meet with local Legislators and spread the word about SWCD's.



Union County SWCD recently met with Representative Bryant in her new office. They were able to give her a lot of information and are planning a tour for her of Union County where she can see what SWCD's do. Union County SWCD also recently met with Senator Leuchtefeld and informed him of the SWCDs as well.

Madison County SWCD held an event in Edwardsville, IL at the USDA/Madison SWCD Service Center. This event was attended by Madison and Marion County SWCD Directors and Employees, Representative Charles Meier, Madison County Farm Bureau President Steven Patrick Koeller, AISWCD Executive Director Kelly Thompson, and District Conservationist Dan Steinmann.

Topics Included:

Madison County's Frank Miles gave an overview of SWCDs and their funding issues while Rick Macho gave an overview of the stormwater inspection program. District Conservationist, Dan Steinmann gave explained NRCS programs. Kelly Thompson gave a briefing on the Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy.

Myron Kirby, Kelly Thompson, Directors, and Employees (Calhoun, Jersey, Greene, Macoupin, Morgan, Scott, and Pike) met in February with Representative C.D. Davidsmeyer in Jacksonville. They had coffee and donuts and discussed Soil and Water Conservation Districts and conservation practices. It was a great opportunity for many Districts to come together for a unified cause and spread the word to a Legislator that is very interested in the SWCDs. Representative Davidsmeyer even posted about the event on his Facebook page. Social Media is a great and free marketing tool for SWCDs. It is even better when a Legislator spreads the word on his/her page for everyone to see!



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

If your District has a Legislative Meeting and you would like it featured in the Conservation Catchall, please send a write up and any photos to gina.bean@aiswcd.org. We always enjoy sharing stories of the Districts working hard to spread the word about Soil and Water Conservation Districts.



ISWCDEA CORNER - STEPHEN MILLER

ISWCDEA REGION FOUR REPRESENTATIVE

website: iswcdea.org

The ISWCDEA board met in Springfield on Thursday, February 19. Thank you to all of our partners who braved the snowy weather to attend the meeting. The board discussed plans for the upcoming year including Summer Conference, the Farm Progress Show, Winter Training, fund-raisers, the ISWCDEA Scholarship, and several other items. Our next meeting will be a conference call on May 14, so it's not too late to make suggestions for Summer Conference. If you do not receive ISWCDEA board meeting minutes and you would like to, your representative can email them to you. Also, if you want to learn more about the ISWCDEA, you can find the by-laws, a representative list, and plenty of other information on the ISWCDEA website.

As we are all well aware, the executive branch of Illinois government is currently seeing major changes. Don't forget about the legislative branch and our opportunity to make connections with legislators in Springfield this month!

As always, feel free to contact your ISWCDEA representatives any time with any comments or concerns. We are always happy to hear from you and were happy to see many of you in Springfield for Legislative Day on March 10th!

Stephen



MARK THOSE CALENDARS!

Envirothon registrations
are due.....

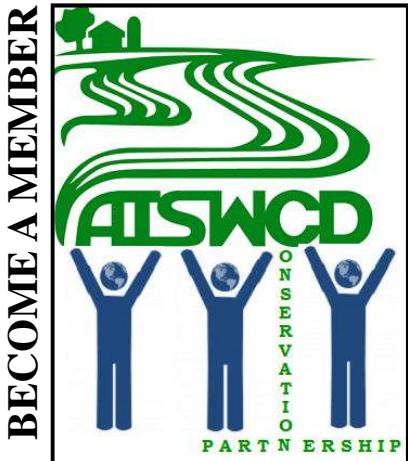
APRIL 10, 2015

Contact Sondra Baker
with any questions:

Sondra.baker@il.nacdnet.net

The image is a promotional card for the Illinois River Conference. It features a circular logo on the left with "ILLINOIS RIVER CONFERENCE" around the top and a stylized river and sun icon in the center. To the right of the logo, the text "Save the date!" is written in red cursive. Below the logo, the text "Hotel Pere Marquette, Peoria, IL" and "October 27-29, 2015" are printed. Underneath the logo, the text "A Watershed Partnership" is displayed. At the bottom, there are three circular icons: one with a fish, one with a corn stalk, and one with a boat. Below these icons, the text "ILLINOIS RIVER CONFERENCE" is written in blue. To the right of the icons, the text "Discover what's been happ'n on the river and the land!" is written in purple. At the very bottom, the text "Partnerships working towards improving the Illinois River system" is written in orange, flanked by stylized green and blue 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
Sue Davis
Della and Charles Moen
George and Cathy Hypke
Tom and Judy Beyers

Lifetime Members:

L&J Enterprises

Corporate Members:

District Members:
Christian County SWCD

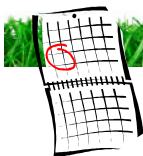
Affiliate Membership Reminder!!!!

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!

- **First Day of Spring!!!! - March 20, 2015**
- **Easter - April 5, 2015**
- **IL Envirothon - April 29 and 30—AISWCD staff will be volunteering at this event both days.**

2015 QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING DATES

- **June 2015 Quarterly Board Meeting - June 8 and 9, 2015**
- **Annual Meeting - July 27 and July 28, 2015**
- **September 2015 Executive Committee Meeting - September 8, 2015**
- **December 2015 Quarterly Board Meeting - December 7 and 8, 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*

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