



February, 2016

Protect & Conserve

Conserving Natural Resources For Our Future

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SWCD Funding Update

SWCDs are an important link to the local economy and state economy. Unlike most state funded agencies, SWCDs re-turn to the local economy an average of \$23.57 for every \$1 spent for their operation. SWCD programs are capable of adding more than \$400 million to the State's economy every year, but if SWCDs are forced to close due to a lack of funding, the valuable services they provide to the residents of Illinois will disappear completely.

Help support SWCDs by passing legislation that includes level funding.



Our Mission :

To represent and empower Illinois' Soil and Water Conservation Districts

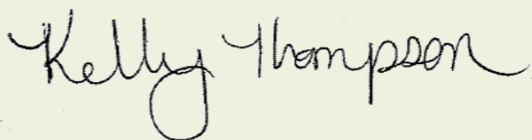
Conservation For The Future

We are well into the new year and what a ride it has been, thus far. The spring season is slowly approaching and that means our Soil and Water Conservation Districts will be busy in the field with site inspections, conservation planning consultations, Earth Day events and much more. There is never a slow season in the conservation world, that is for certain!

Over the past month, many Soil and Water Conservation Districts have been hosting nutrient management meetings to educate landowners, operators, farm managers and the general public about the **causes** of the **Gulf of Mexico Hypoxic zone...phosphorus and nitrogen runoff** from Ag and Urban landscapes. The Gulf Hypoxia is a very serious issue and will continue to grow if more funds are not spent on implementing conservation Best Management Practices (BMPs). Illinois, Indiana and Iowa are the three major contributors of nitrogen and phosphorus to the river systems in the mid-west. It will take Best Management practices on EVERY ACRE in Illinois to reduce the runoff of phosphorus and nitrogen by 45%.

Clean and usable water is an important and vital natural resource to all living creatures in Illinois, the Nation and world-wide. Why not **invest in water quality** for Illinois by introducing legislation to **support funding** for the **Soil and Water Conservation Districts** of Illinois? Ask yourself, is water quality important to my constituents? Everyone benefits from Soil and Water Conservation Districts by allowing the Districts to address vital natural resource concerns at the local level.

Thank YOU for your continued support to make Illinois a better place by investing in our natural resources! Together we are protecting and conserving the natural resources of this great state, Illinois.



Kelly Thompson
AISWCD Executive Director



SAVE THE DATE!

2016 Legislative Day: March 2, 2016



Legislative Visits from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Please join us for FOOD, DRINKS, and CONVERSATION

from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm

at

Boone's Saloon

301 West Edwards Street

Springfield, IL 62704



SAVE THE DATE!

Nutrient Management Seminar : Wednesday, March 9, 2016

NIU - Center, 8500 State Street, Rockford, IL



Registration Fee of \$10.00

Please call (815) 962-0653 by **Monday, February 29th** to register.

Farmers and Landowners are invited to join us to learn more about the Nutrient Reduction Loss Strategy (NRLS) and ways to reduce nutrient loss through the following topics: Introduction to the NRLS; the use of cover crops to sequester nutrients; nutrient management strategies for crop production including the 4 "R's"; tile drainage management; and USDA-NRCS, USDA-FSA and IDOA-SWCD cost-share and incentive programs available to assist in practice implementation.

Program Sponsored By:

- Winnebago-Boone Farm Bureau
- Boone County Soil and Water Conservation District
- Winnebago County Soil and Water Conservation District
- Boone County Conservation District
- Forest Preserves of Winnebago County



How Do IL Soil and Water Conservation Districts Assist State and Federal Agencies?

IDOA

Soil and Water Conservation Districts receive funding to support staffing positions and administrative duties

participate in cost-share projects which help to control soil erosion on private landowner property develop several demonstration plots and conservation examples to show landowners the importance of protecting their land by incorporating practices that reduce soil erosion.

IDNR

Soil and Water Conservation Districts assist by enrolling landowners into the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) and also monitor existing CREP contracts act as the intermediary by encouraging voluntary enrollment from landowners to obtain DNR forestry assistance which helps decrease erosion and soil loss on the land work with DNR biologists to create viable wildlife habitats and food plots on private land throughout IL.

IEPA

Soil and Water Conservation Districts receive section 319 Clean Water Act grant assistance for projects that result in water quality improvements throughout the state of IL assist in NPDES compliance monitoring in and around developing areas participate and assist in forming local watershed planning groups, programs and projects aimed at improving water quality.

NRCS

Soil and Water Conservation Districts assist with Federal Farm Bill Programs to help landowners control soil erosion.

Outreach

Soil and Water Conservation Districts provide educational outreach assistance to the above agencies and numerous others provide educational information to activities such as:

- Public Meetings
- Displays and Information Booths at County Fairs
- Classroom Presentations
- Teacher Workshops
- IL Envirothon
- Field Days

Protect and Conserve

SWCDs are an important link to deliver state and federal source programs and funds that directly benefit the local and state economy. Please support legislation that includes fy14 level funding .

SWCDs are thankful for it's dedicated employees and District Directors



Recognizing team work while
supporting our community

The **Environmental Award** was presented to
the ***Atwood Center*** at the Winnebago
SWCD Annual Meeting

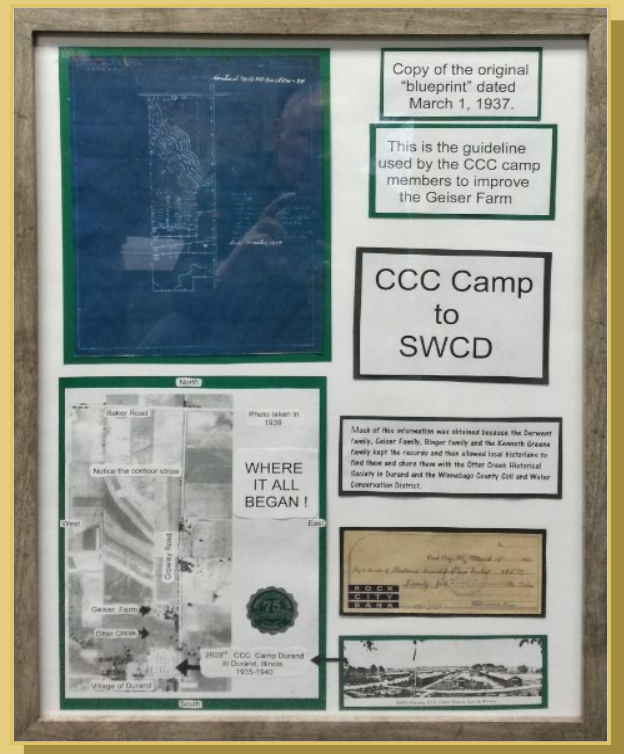
The award was sponsored by
TransEnvironmental

SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT SPOTLIGHT

Winnebago Soil & Water Conservation District



Silent Auction item - a photo of a barn near
Apple River Canyon, nicely matted & framed



The origins of conservation in Winnebago County
were highlighted by a display of historical items from
the late 1930's, including the CCC camp in Durand;
put together by friends of the District.

Services Offered by Soil & Water Conservation Districts

[Click Here to Contact Your Local SWCD for More Details](#)

Informative Watershed Tours

- Learn to Identify unique land features associated with watersheds

Sustainable Ag Tours

- Learn how to utilize what nature has to offer

Tree and Fish Sales

- Since 1965 SWCDs have provided residents with inexpensive seeding trees and shrubs
- Fish for re-stocking ponds

Educational Programs

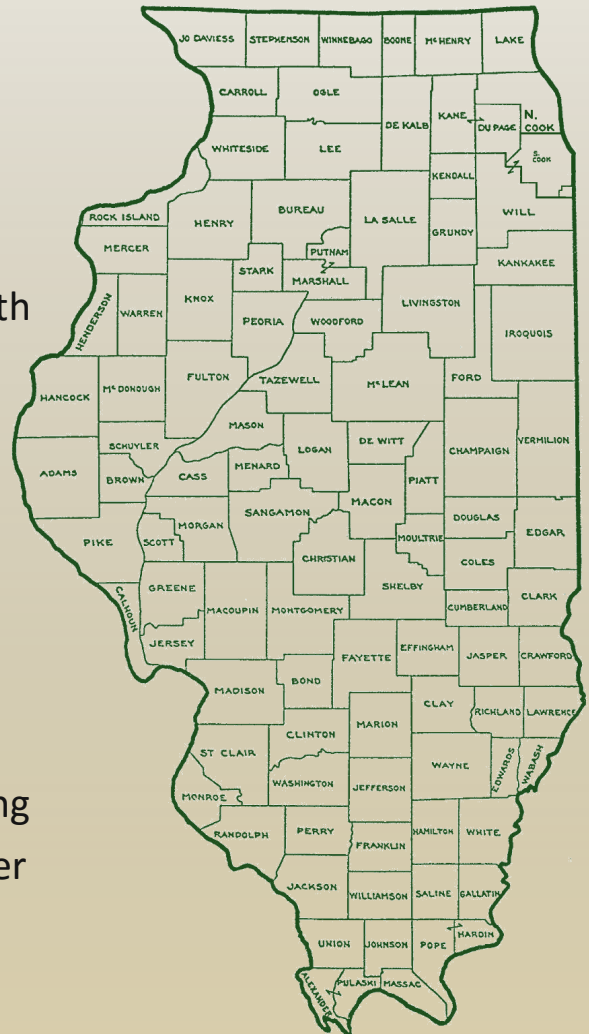
- Educational programs such as Envirothon, Ag days, and soil judging contest

Fire District Mapping

- SWCDs assist local fire departments in lowering ISO ratings by determining the amount of water available within basins connected to their dry hydrants

Rain Barrel Sales

- SWCDs provide low cost rain barrels to county residents



We offer All of these Services and much more!

Find us on
Instagram



Contact AISWCD



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www.AISWCD.org