



CONSERVATION CATCHALL

In this issue:

President's Message	2
New Requirements Facing SWCDs	
Executive Director's Notes	3
Administrative Assistant Update	4
New Projection Shows Global Food Demand Doubling by 2050	5
ISWCDEA Corner	6
Empty Fields Fill Urban Basins and Farmers' Pockets	6
Natural Area Guardians	7
Legislative Corner	8
Envirothon	9
Needing More Water, Coast to Coast	9
NACD Annual Meeting	9
Calendar	10

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EMPTY FIELDS FILL URBAN BASINS AND FARMERS' POCKETS

By Felicity Barringer

BRAWLEY, Calif. — Three generations of Al Kalin's family have worked their 2,000 acres of carrots and sugar beets, wheat and alfalfa for almost a century in the Imperial Valley, a scorching swath of Southern California desert that was unfit for farming until water from the Colorado River was diverted here in 1901.

But now Mr. Kalin and his brother enjoy a choice that their parents and grandparents never had. They can continue to farm all their land, or they can stop farming some of it and earn more than \$500 an acre — more than the market value of a crop like alfalfa in a given year — simply by not using the water required to nourish those crops. Water saved is sent on to thirsty cities and suburbs to the west: San Diego, Los Angeles and Palm Springs.

With water increasingly scarce in the West, some other communities are allowing farmers to sell their allotment of it for whatever price they can find, in some cases thousands of dollars for the amount it takes to grow an acre of a crop. But this comes with a hitch. Working farms provide jobs and income to their many suppliers. There are 450 farmers in the Imperial Valley, but half the jobs held by the 174,000 residents



Sandy Huffaker for The New York Times
Al Kalin in a field on his farm in Southern California's Imperial Valley. A program offers farmers money to keep land fallow and divert water to cities, but his family has chosen not to participate.

are tied to agriculture. When land is idled, the communities around the farms can wither. Residents here point to the neighboring Palo Verde Valley, where farmers can sell more than a quarter of their water supply at much higher prices in a process they control. As a result, nearly a third of the agricultural land was not farmed this year; over time, businesses and workers have suffered.



Sandy Huffaker for The New York Times
The Salton Sea is fed by irrigation runoff from farms. Environmentalists say the Imperial Valley's water transfer deals are harming the shrinking lake.

Imperial's fear is that a century after Colorado River water allowed this land to be a cornucopia, unfettered urban water transfers could turn it back into a desert. So the deal that Imperial water managers struck limits how much water can be sold and for what price, and it controls how much acreage is enrolled in the program and for how long.

Many farmers, including the Kalins, have resisted the temptation to sell. "There is something about that fallowing, it just doesn't sit well with my brother and I," Mr. Kalin said.

The Imperial Irrigation District, where they farm, controls more water than any other place in the West — about 20 percent of the annual flow of the Colorado. "It's built into the DNA here that water is a birthright," said Kevin Kelley, the irrigation district's general manager.

The chance to profit from water sales is an unsettling phenomenon here. Even though less than 5 percent of Imperial County's 500,000 acres of agricultural land has ever been idle at any given time, many residents believe that unrestrained water sales would unravel the fabric of the community.

(Continued on page 6)





PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - JAMES TODD

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Editor's Note: President Todd will not have an article in this month's issue but instead asked that we print the following to make you aware of issues that have recently arisen that will affect SWCDs in the new year.

Legislation was passed and signed into law this past year that will take effect January 1, 2012. The legislation will require every elected or appointed public official to take computer based electronic training on the Illinois Open Meeting Act. Those of you who do not have access to a computer at your home will be able to take the test on one of the SWCD office computers. It should take no more than 30 minutes for you to take the training. The following was provided by the Illinois Attorney General.

Open Meetings Act Elected and Appointed Members OMA Electronic Training

Effective January 1, 2012, elected or appointed members of a public body subject to OMA must complete the electronic training once during their term of election or appointment as follows:

- Any person who is an elected or appointed member of a public body subject to the Act **on** January 1, 2012, must complete the electronic training between January 1, 2012, and January 1, 2013.
- Any person who becomes an elected or appointed member of a public body subject to the Act **after** January 1, 2012, must complete the electronic training no later than the 90th day after taking the oath of office or, if not required to take an oath of office, after otherwise assuming responsibilities as a member of the public body.

Elected or appointed members need not complete the electronic training on an annual basis thereafter unless they are also designated to receive training on compliance with the Open Meetings Act.

The Public Access Counselor's Office's OMA electronic training is available free of charge at:
http://foia.ilattorneygeneral.net/electronic_foia_training.aspx.

The second thing that we have just become aware of involves those SWCDs who have a contract with a federal agency. That will include all SWCDs who have a contribution agreement with NRCS as well as those who may have contracts with other federal agencies such as the Army Corps of Engineers, US Fish and Wildlife Service or others.

Any SWCD that receives federal funding, is required by law to register with the Local Illinois Department of Employment Security Veterans Employment Representative. Carolyn Matya is headquartered in the Mt. Vernon office of the Illinois Department of Employment security but has offered to register any SWCD that will get in touch with her. Mrs. Matya's number is 618-244-1700 ext. 7361. She said you could call her and she would take care of the registration for you. If you would prefer, you can contact your local Employment Security office and ask for the Veterans Employment Representative. Any entity (in our case, SWCD) receiving federal funds through a contract or a grant (that includes IEPA 319 grants) is required to call the IDES to post any job offered by the entity (SWCD). It makes no difference if the person being hired will be paid by the federal funds or not. The job will be posted on their website for 48 hours only to veterans and then it will be available to others. Even though it is required to be posted there, the posting entities are not obligated to hire whomever IDES may send.

We will provide more information as it becomes available.

We hope you will have a very merry Christmas and a joy filled New Year!



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S NOTES - RICH NICHOLS

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2011 is nearly over and what a year it was! The reductions in funding to SWCDs saw another bunch of departing district employees. The year also saw three different versions of a gaming bill that is intended to fund the districts and stop the flight of employees who are looking for a more stable income. Unfortunately, only one of the bills made it through both houses but was never sent to the Governor because of this veto threats so, we still have no legislation funding districts beyond the pitifully small amount that was included in the 2012 budget. As we end the year, Senator Link, Representative Land and Gary Hannig representing the Governor are meeting regularly to hash out their differences in an effort to come up with yet another version of the gaming bill that can hopefully win support in both houses and with the Governor. As I write this, it appears that the likely time frame for the bill to be brought to the floor is March.

The potential for a bill to pass that will provide \$12.5 million for SWCD operations is a real eye opener. In many ways, we expect that amount of money to cause as many problems as lack of money is causing now. What will each district do with an average annual allocation of somewhere around \$114,000? There is no doubt that much of the money will go to rehire laid off employees, reinstate full time hours for those employees who have had their hours reduced and to provide raises. The Grant Funds Recover Act allows only a short time for the districts to spend the money. The wording in the bill states that the money can only be used for operating purposes so what will SWCDs do with the extra money. If districts decide they don't want to spend all of their allocation within the required time frame then it must be returned to the state and will likely not be allocated again the following year. If it is all given to employees as a raise then many districts will have highly paid employees and the money will all be used but because there are no provisions for the \$12.5 million to increase over the life of the legislation, employees can expect to receive no increases for five years. Also there is the issue of fairness. Should a new employ-

ee receive the same pay as an employee with say, 20 years of experience? There will be no easy solutions to the situation. Hiring more employees is a partial solution but may not work for all districts. Most districts can use an education program so an education coordinator could be a real asset but if there is only \$4.275 million in program money (the amount of Partners for Conservation cost share money that has been appropriated for the past couple of years) it is not likely that many districts will need to hire another technical employee. I think this is an issue that needs to be studied before we are faced with what to do with too much money.

I believe that every district should receive a fixed amount to assure that there will be enough money to maintain two entry level employees. After that, we need to look at some options for allocation the funds where the need is greatest. The Turnover Taskforce Report that was issued a number of years ago offered some insight into allocations based on training and experience as well as workload. Maybe we need to revisit that information and investigate ways that funds can be allocated to do the most good for staff and for the protection of the state's natural resources.

I don't have many answers right now but I do have a lot of questions. I hope that you will start posing some questions too as to how we can be good stewards of the potentially abundant resources, both fiscal and physical, that we have access to in the not so distant future.

In the meantime, I wish each of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May the full meaning of Christmas and the celebration of the birth of our savior strengthen you and keep you secure during the coming year.

Rich



ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT'S UPDATE - SHERRY FINN

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November and December Activities

CREP Coordinator Grant:

- Organized and mailed November CREP Coordinator Invoice with each participating Districts' vouchers and receipts
- Completed Database for FY 2010-11 CREP Contract with IEPA
- Made copies & mailed signed New CREP Coordinator sub-agreements for amendments to participating Districts and IEPA
- Sent database showing funds used to IEPA for update
- E-mailed Tax Levy information to all Districts
- E-mailed link to Districts & Board Members for Legislative and CC newsletters; mailed copies to non-email participants

FY 2011 Farm Progress Show

- Made up database for invoice payments; updated all paid invoices and completed deposits.
- Tracking unpaid invoices

FY 2012 Audit:

- Completed information to send out requests for bids for 2012, 2013, and 2014 audits.

December Quarterly Board Meeting:

- Completed registration database for hotel rooms needed; Christmas Party participants; and numbers for meals
- Notified Northfield Inn with hotel room count; meal count; and placed meal orders for lunch and breakfast
- Notified Chesapeake Seafood house with meal count and reservations
- E-mailed roll call sheets and Action Item sheets to QB FAC minute recorders prior to Dec QB meeting
- Compiling FAC and taskforce meeting minutes; compiling and completing AISWCD & Foundation meeting minutes
- Following up on action items from FAC, taskforces, and AISWCD & Foundation meetings
- Will forward all meeting minutes to AISWCD Board members

ACCOUNTING/OFFICE ADMIN:

- Completed Payroll and Payroll Taxes for November & December
- Reconciled all bank accounts
- Completed bookwork for All AISWCD & Insurance Accts
- Prepared Deposits for SWCD Dues and Receivables
- Completed Checks for Payables; Completed Deposits for Receivables; Completed Monthly Financials
- Filed all Completed Payables & Receivables Documentation
- Wrote checks for SWCD various insurance premiums; had Rich sign; mailed; e-mailed copies to Debbie Holsapple
- Completed Semi-Monthly IL Lobbyist Expenditure Data for IL Secretary of State for November & December
- Completed Deposit for CREP Coordinator October voucher; wrote checks, had Rich sign, and mailed to participating Districts for reimbursement
- Keeping Income/Expense Sheet for reporting to Rich Nichols for 2011 Farm Progress Show; recording payments from partners for reimbursement of expenses and making deposits.
- Completed delinquent letters and invoices for District chairmen, Area VPs, and AISWCD Board Officers for FY '11 Dues; completed dollar tally for outstanding dues amount

OTHER DUTIES:

- Phone calls, mail and e-mail correspondence
- Compiled expense reports for Credit Cards
- Timesheets
- Maintain Patio Paver and Rain Barrel Database
- Maintain SWCD Dues Paid (FY '11) Databases
- Setup SWCD Dues Database for FY 2012
- Mailed Thank You Notes to Paid Districts
- Sent AISWCD/SWCD Sponsors monthly CC and Legislative Newsletter
- E-mailed Monthly Financials to Officers and other requesters
- Updated Records Retention, Mgmt & Destruction Folder
- Forward to Rich the monthly SWCD/LUC agenda and meeting minutes that are e-mailed to me; file these after seen by Rich
- Proofread Conservation Catchall and Legislative Newsletter; made changes and posted to website; copied link
- Completed Monthly Office Supply Inventory and placed order
- Maintaining Earth Stewardship Bank Account.
- Sent delinquent notice to District Directors for FY 2011 dues; sent same notice to AISWCD Officers, Area VPs, and SWCD Districts per Board request
- Sent e-mail notice to all Districts requesting LUC articles for upcoming Legislative Newsletters.
- Made colored copies of Legislative information for Capitol visit
- Sent Meeting Wizard to Envirothon Taskforce Committee to select a meeting date & time; notified IL Envirothon Coordinators date selected; sent meeting wizard with meeting date and time to Taskforce committee members
- Participated on IL Envirothon Taskforce teleconference call on November 29, 2011

LOOKING AHEAD:

- NACD Annual Meeting registration for Board Member(s)
- Close Out for FY 2011 books for AISWCD & Foundation
- 2011 AISWCD & Foundation Audit
- March QB Meeting

REMEMBER: Volunteers don't get paid; not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless!!!

TO ACT: Open your heart & eyes to see that opportunities to help & serve are everywhere!!

JESUS IS THE REASON FOR THE SEASON!!!

MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

Sherry

New Projection Shows Global Food Demand Doubling by 2050

Science Daily (Nov. 21, 2011) — Global food demand could double by 2050, according to a new projection by David Tilman, Regents Professor of Ecology in the University of Minnesota's College of Biological Sciences, and colleagues, including Jason Hill, assistant professor in the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences.

Producing that amount of food could significantly increase levels of carbon dioxide and nitrogen in the environment and cause the extinction of numerous species. But this can be avoided, the paper shows, if the high-yielding technologies of rich nations are adapted to work in poor nations, and if all nations use nitrogen fertilizers more efficiently.

"Agriculture's greenhouse gas emissions could double by 2050 if current trends in global food production continue," Tilman said. "Global agriculture already accounts for a third of all greenhouse gas emissions." Much of these emissions come from land clearing, which also threatens species with extinction.

The article shows that if poor nations continue current practices, they will clear a land area larger than the United States (two and a half billion acres) by 2050. But if richer nations help poorer nations improve yields to achievable levels, that could be reduced to half a billion acres.

The research, published Nov. 21 online by the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, shows that adopting nitrogen-efficient "intensive" farming can meet future global food demand with much lower environmental impacts than the "extensive" farming practiced by many poor nations, which clear land to produce more food. The potential benefits are great. In 2005, crop yields for the wealthiest nations were more than 300 percent higher than yields for the poorest nations.

"Strategically intensifying crop production in developing and least-developed nations would reduce the overall environmental harm caused by food production, as well as provide a more equitable food supply across the globe," said Hill.

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations recently projected a 70 percent increase in demand. According to Tilman, either projection shows that the world faces major environmental problems unless agricultural practices change.

The environmental impacts of meeting demand depend on how global agriculture expands. Clearing land for agriculture and the use of fuel and fertilizers to grow crops increases carbon and nitrogen in the environment and causes species extinctions.

In the paper, Tilman and his collaborators explore different ways of meeting demand for food and their environmental effects. In essence, the options are to increase productivity on existing agricultural land, clear more land, or do a combination of both. They consider various scenarios in which the amount of nitrogen use, land cleared, and resulting greenhouse gas emissions differ.

"Our analyses show that we can save most of the Earth's remaining ecosystems by helping the poorer nations of the world feed themselves," Tilman said.

Christian Blazer, from the University of California Santa Barbara, collaborated with Tilman and Hill on the research. Belinda Befort, University of Minnesota College of Biological Sciences, also contributed.



The world will face major environmental problems unless agricultural practices change.
(Credit: USDA)



ISWCDEA CORNER - MEGAN POLACEK, ISWCDEA REGION FIVE REPRESENTATIVE

website: <http://www.il.ncdea.org>



The 2011 Annual Meeting of the ISWCDEA was held Wednesday, December 7, 2011 at the Northfield Inn & Suites in Springfield. New representatives were inducted, there were a couple by-law changes, and departing members were recognized. New members coming on the ISWCDEA board include Sherry Huffstutler in Region 1, Betty Buckert in Region 3, and Keith Livesay in Region 5. Even with these very generous volunteers, there are still 5 representative vacancies on the board. These vacancies were the reason behind changing the ISWCDEA by-laws definition of a quorum from a majority of the "available representative seats" to a majority of "seated representative positions" in Article VII, Section 2. There was concern that with all of the vacant representative positions, a quorum of board members might be a challenge for our meetings.

The 2012 officers include Debi Slade as AC Co-Chair, Dean Johnson as RC Co-Chair, Kara Downin as RC Co-Vice Chair, Betty Buckert as AC Co-Vice Chair, Sharon Matson as Treasurer, and myself as Secretary. RC Co-Chair Phyllis Mace and Secretary Jill Harre ended their terms with the board. Much thanks to the two of them for their years of service to the ISWCDEA!

EMPTY FIELDS FILL URBAN BASINS AND FARMERS' POCKETS

(Continued from page 1)

Water sales began here in 2003, when, under pressure from the Department of the Interior, the ultimate authority over Colorado River flow, the irrigation district's board agreed to export 10 percent of its usual allotment, or just under 100 billion gallons, to cities over nearby dry mountains. Farmers had been accused of using water inefficiently, and the board feared being forced to forfeit water. The water sale was the largest recorded in the West.

To avoid an aquatic gold rush, rules were set. Farmers work through their water district and cannot negotiate directly with urban districts. Fields proposed for the program are selected randomly and can go out of production for only two years at a time.

Some Imperial Valley farmers objected to the restrictions and sued in state court, seeking direct control of their water. That suit is pending. These farmers know that the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, which is called Met and serves 17 million people, is paying Palo Verde Valley farmers seven times as much for water than what Imperial farmers receive from their irrigation district. The board of the district in Imperial opposes any more water deals. But many worry that the cities will get their way eventually.

"If we ship any more water out, we've compromised our future," said Gary Wyatt, an Imperial County supervisor.

Mr. Kalin said: "There was nothing here before the water was here. There will be nothing here after it's gone."

The program to idle land started as an organized way to export the 10 percent. The water's price ranges from more than \$200 to more than \$500 per fallowed acre, though irrigating that same acre costs farmers far less. The district has not let the price go up, even as farmers see much higher prices paid elsewhere. The program is expected to end in 2017, when the cities' needs can all be met through conservation.

An expanding geothermal industry in Imperial needs more water. And there are new uses for land: solar-power businesses file proposals almost weekly. Mr. Kelley, the district's general manager, said that if the economy diversified, he could envision a future when water sales would be more palatable.

Mr. Kalin knows that eventually crop prices will fall and that it will look more appealing to leave land fallow. "When times are bad or the banker is knocking on your door," he said, "everything's different."

But for now, the Kalins choose farming.

The entire series of articles on dwindling water supplies across the United States can be accessed here: http://topics.nytimes.com/top/news/science/series/precious_waters/index.html



Sandy Huffaker for The New York Times
A worker adjusting a sprinkler on Al Kalin's farm. Growers in the Imperial Valley can receive more than \$500 per fallow acre.

Editors Note: This article has little to do with Illinois...for now (see page 9). Illinois is a water rich state but drought or continued heavy use of water could change that. Parts of the state, especial Northeastern Illinois, are experiencing aquifer drawdown and will continue to have increasing problems if water conservation efforts are not put in place and followed. Soil and Water Conservation Districts have the tools to help conserve irrigation water, the practices to slow storm water runoff and help recharge aquifers and the knowledge to help keep Illinois a water surplus state for years to come. Let's hope that Illinois' farmers are never faced with the dilemma of selling water or raising a crop.

This article is reprinted from The New York Times and was published October 23, 2011

Natural Area Guardians-Debra Carey

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MONTGOMERY COUNTY NAGS

Organized in 2005, the Montgomery County Natural Area Guardians are off to a quick start.

Three major projects are now in development. The largest is Historic Rt. 66 Prairie. Our first president, Henry Eilers, working with the Illinois Department of Transportation in Litchfield is focusing his energies on restoration of an eight-acre tract near the weigh station on I-55 just north of Litchfield. Eilers envisions this becoming a stopping point for tourists driving the historic Route 66 from Chicago to California. Litchfield already has several tourism sites connected with Route 66 and this natural area will give drivers another reason.

Eilers hopes that once tourists get a glimpse of what natural areas were once like throughout the Midwest, they'll be interested in exploring it more at the Shoal Creek



Arches: One of the sights on the Arches Rail Trail is an arch built to support the rail over a small creek. The Alton-Terre Haute rail line was built in 1854-55.

allow the Village of Butler to put a sewer line along the track from the village to the City of Hillsboro. NAGs will now work on developing the



Field day: One of the early educational field days was held in a prairie at the home of a NAGs member, Glenn Savage. Henry Eilers, at right, was one of the guides. We enlisted the help of a tractor with a lift on the back to help some of the older visitors to see all of the prairie.

Conservation Area on the east side of Litchfield and the Illinois Audubon Society's Bremer Sanctuary just north of Hillsboro, about 10 miles east.

The second major project is the Arches Rail Trail just north of Hillsboro and adjoining Bremer Sanctuary. Montgomery County NAGs plan to develop this three mile stretch of railroad bed into a walking trail. Montgomery County Board purchased the abandoned line from a private individual to allow the Village of Butler to put a sewer line along the track from the village to the City of Hillsboro. NAGs will now work on developing the line to preserve the trees along the roadbed of the railroad and as a draw for public recreation. The trail got its name from the two bridges that are built of limestone under the railroad bed and also the trees that now arch over the trail.

The third project is planting and restoration of prairie areas around a borrow pit and prairie area on property next to and owned by Hillsboro Area Hospital. The first phase was planting around the borrow pit to prevent erosion. A small area next to the pond is a bit of wetland. The second phase is the restoration of prairie to provide walkers (from exercise programs developed by the hospital) a beautiful setting for a part of fitness programs developed at the Fusion Fitness and Aquatics facility adjoining the hospital.

In addition, members of Montgomery County NAGs who have expertise in restoration are serving as consultants to several landowners in the county who are working to "naturalize" parts of their properties, from backyard plantings to small acreages.



Rt. 66 Prairie: Henry Eilers, foreground, points out one of the more interesting plants to former State Senator Diana Demuzio at the Historic Rt. 66 Prairie just north of Litchfield. Senator Demuzio was instrumental in helping NAGs get the prairie remnant to restore to a natural area and for tourism purposes. An overpass over I-55 can be seen in the background.



Seeding: NAGs volunteers do a fall seeding at the borrow pit behind Hillsboro Area Hospital. A portion of the prairie NAGs is restoring is in the background next to the tree line. NAGs also advised hospital officials about the use of native plants in landscaping around new hospital additions.



Legislative Corner - Mike Hoffmann

The General Assembly returned to Springfield for sessions on December 12 and 13 to finalize business related to tax policy. As you probably know, the Chicago Mercantile Exchange and Sears received tax incentives to remain in Illinois. But SB 397, among other tax changes, also includes an increase in the individual deduction for the Illinois Estate Tax from \$2 million to \$3 million in 2012 and to \$4 million in 2013 and thereafter. In addition, the bill extends the sunset date another five years for the ethanol and biodiesel state sales tax incentives to December 31, 2018. A second bill raises the personal exemption from the income tax from \$2,000 to \$2,050 and pegs it to inflation and also raises the Earned Income Tax Credit.

The next scheduled day for legislative session is January 31, 2012.

Gaming Legislation

The G.A. did not address the gaming bill during the limited session, but activity continues to take place around the issue. After the veto session, the Governor designated former State Rep. Gary Hannig as his negotiator on the issue, and he, along with Sen. Terry Link (D-Lake Co.) and Rep. Lou Lang (D-Cook Co.) expressed their intent to hold meetings on the bill to resolve the differences and come to agreement on a bill that can pass in both the House and Senate and be signed by the Governor – no small task. It is my understanding that all agree that the Ag funding that was in SB 744 (which passed last spring, but was never sent to the Governor) and SB 1849 (which failed in the House in November) should be part of the bill.

To reiterate, SB 1849 contained \$45 million for Agriculture-related programs, including \$12.5 million for SWCDs. We believe the funding is as secure as it can be legislatively. Remember, the bill says that the fund can be used “solely” for grants to SWCDs and must supplement other funding. Of course, state funds must be appropriated; otherwise there would be no accountability. But they will be appropriated if our legislative supporters stick with us.

Yesterday, December 19, I attended a meeting in Chicago involving the officials mentioned above and representatives for all of the gaming interests, including the casinos, the race tracks, and the City of Chicago (where a casino would be located under the bill). The legislators expressed an intention to try to agree and pass a bill by the end of March. Whether they can meet that challenging goal remains to be seen, but the meeting did result in good dialogue about the concerns of the competing interests. A second meeting will be held in mid-January to see if any progress can be made in the meantime as various parties get together to discuss options. The main sticking point is that the Governor and the casinos now doing business in Illinois do not want to see the race tracks get the slot machines that they believe will enable them to keep the horse racing industry competitive with other states. I’ll keep you posted on the progress of the talks.

In the meantime, it is imperative that all of you contact your legislative supporters to let them know how much this bill means to us. \$45 million for Agriculture is more than we have seen for a long time. A number of our downstate legislators who normally support Agriculture are skeptical that the bill will deliver what we say. We need to let them know that with their support it will and that this funding is vital to the health of the Ag industry and to SWCDs.

REMEMBER: KEEP YOUR STATE LEGISLATORS EDUCATED ON SWCD ACTIVITIES



Illinois Envirothon

2012 Current Issue Information Available

The 2012 Current Issue - "Nonpoint Source Pollution/Low Impact Development" study packet is posted on the AISWCD web site. Please access the information and distribute it to teachers in your district/Land Use Council who are interested in participating in the Envirothon.

Special thanks to the staff at the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency for their assistance in developing this material.

Date: May 10 & 11

Location: Allerton Park, Monticello, IL

Study Packet Information: www.aiswcd.org/programs/envirothon.htm

Needing More Water, Coast to Coast

Large areas of the United States have reduced their withdrawals of water over the last 25 years. But an analysis suggests that if warming related to climate change occurs as anticipated in the next quarter-century, the demand for water would rise in most places.

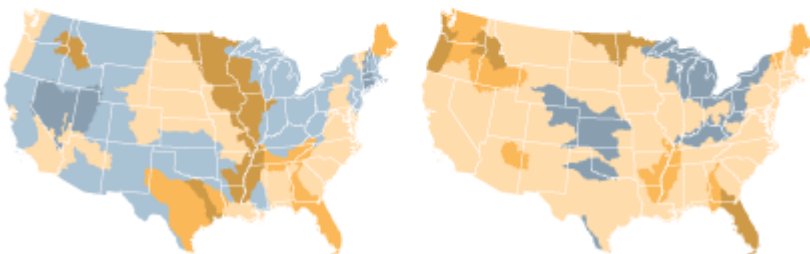
EMPTY FIELDS FILL URBAN BASINS AND FARMERS' POCKETS

(Reference Editors Note, page 5)



Change from 1985 to 2010

Potential change from 2010 to 2035



Sources: Thomas C. Brown, U.S. Forest Service

THE NEW YORK TIMES

The graphic shows the increase/decrease in water usage in the US from 1985 - 2010 and the potential increase/decrease from 2010 to 2035.

As you can see, Illinois' usage increased by more than 40% in the 25 years following 1985. While the rate of usage is not expected to grow as much in the next 25 years, any reduction in annual rainfall amounts over that period could have noticeable impacts on the availability of water for domestic and agricultural use.

The graphic is from an article printed in The New York Times, April 2011

2012 NACD Annual Meeting

Cosmopolitan Hotel • January 29 - February 1, 2012 • Las Vegas, NV



Based on theme, "Conservation: We're All In!" the 66th Annual Meeting will showcase a variety of partners in conservation and projects on the ground, demonstrating that we can do more for conservation when we all work together.

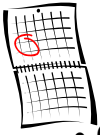
The conference will offer a wide range of informative sessions and networking opportunities, in addition to a Conservation Expo showcasing the latest products and technologies in conservation from partners across the country.



Illinois has been invited to provide part of a session on the Illinois Urban Manual. This is a similar presentation that was given last year at the NACD Annual Meeting. It was received so well that we have been asked to repeat the session. Neil Pellmann, North Cook SWCD, RC, will be making the presentation. Congratulations Neil!

*Tuesday, January 31
3:00 - 4:30 p.m.*

Stormwater Management, Urban Conservation and Source Water Protection As districts shift from rural to urban, it's important to keep up with the times and practices. Hear how conservation districts across the country are developing creative ways to manage stormwater issues. Also learn more about the Source Water Collaborative and how to get involved!



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- Christmas - Sunday, December 25th - (Office closed Monday, December 26th - Friday December 30)
- New Years Eve - Sunday, December 31st - (Office Closed Monday, January 1st)
- NACD North Central Region Meeting - January 5-6, Four Points Sheraton Hotel, Schiller Park, IL
- ILICA Convention - January 12-14 Doubletree Hotel, Bloomington, IL
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day - Monday, January 16th - (Office Closed)
- 2012 Tillage Seminars - January 23 in Mt. Vernon, January 24 in Springfield, January 25 in Utica
- Illinois Ag Legislative Roundtable - January 26th in Bloomington

2012 QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING DATES

- March 2012 Quarterly Board Meeting - March 13th, Northfield Inn - Springfield, IL
- June 2012 Quarterly Board Meeting - June 11th/12th, Northfield Inn - Springfield, IL
- September 2012 Quarterly Board Meeting - September 11th, Teleconference 8:00 am (Only if Needed)
- December 2012 Quarterly Board Meeting - December 10th/11th, Northfield Inn - Springfield, IL

December Dates of note

- December 16 - National Chocolate Covered Anything Day
- December 18 - Bake Cookies Day
- December 24 - National Chocolate Day
- December 25 - Christmas
- December 30 - National Bicarbonate of Soda Day
- December 31 - New Year's Eve



January IS:

- National Blood Donor Month
- National Braille Literacy Month
- National Hobby Month
- Hot Tea Month
- National Oatmeal Month
- National Soup Month

January dates of note

- January 1 - New Years Day
- January 6 - Cuddle Up Day (This could become a favorite)
- January 10 - Peculiar People Day
- January 16 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- January 17 - Ditch New Year's Resolutions Day (Yesssss!)
- January 21 - National Hugging Day
- January 24 - Complement Day
- January 29 - National Corn Chip Day



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

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