



CONSERVATION CATCHALL

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WATER LEVELS ON MISSISSIPPI THREATEN SHIPPING

Already low water levels on the Mississippi river are expected to fall even more as the Army Corps of Engineers have started to reduce the flow of water down the Missouri River. The Corps is acting now to move the Missouri River into what they call "drought reserve mode." This essentially translates into much less water flowing out of the Missouri and into the Mississippi River. The shipping industry and others are asking the Corps to slow down or stop the process before shipping is brought to a stop on Mississippi south of St. Louis. Senator Charles Grassley (R-IA) says that the Corps is going to start, in his words, "impounding" water behind Missouri River reservoirs to prepare for the possibility of a dry spring ahead. The Corp says they are moving to follow their winter release manual from Gavins Point Dam, near Yankton, South Dakota. The reservoir will be dropped to minimum levels, averaging an outflow of around 12-thousand cubic feet per second (CFS) starting on December 1 and running through the end of February. Current release levels from the dam have been running more than three times that level, at 38,000 CFS.



The shipping industry is watching the issue very closely. The move by the Corps could potentially bring barge traffic on a stretch of river to a halt within weeks. The low water currently on the Mississippi is close to exposing rocks and other navigational hazards that would normally be covered up by an adequate flow of water. In a letter to the Army Corps of Engineers Grassley wrote, "The Corps has the ability to remove impediments to navigation by demolishing rock pinnacles – particularly at Thebes, Illinois – in order to avert the looming crisis. We urge the Corps of Engineers to undertake this work as soon as possible. If authority can be found, we also request that the impoundment of Missouri River water be delayed until the rock work is completed so that navigation can be maintained."

River levels are already low near St. Louis; on Monday November 26 the river gage read - 1.55 feet and is forecasted to drop to -2.5 feet by December 3. The Corps says they may close the river between St. Louis and Cairo when the gage falls to -5 feet.

For a shipping industry that has battled low water during the summer drought, this just adds to the headaches from an already trying shipping season. Now shippers are getting prepared for a winter with perhaps even greater uncertainty. According to Larry Daily, President of Alter Logistics a barge and port operator on the Mississippi river, the low water will cost the industry. He stressed that the drought's impact will reach beyond farmers. Roughly 12 billion tons of cargo is moved on the Mississippi each year and just 12 percent of those products are agriculture related. According to Daily, energy products account for the majority of traffic with coal, petroleum products and crude oil making up 73 percent of all shipments. Additionally, shipping costs for all industries are expected to increase since June prices for shipping soybeans from St. Louis to New Orleans increased from \$9 a ton to \$14.50 a ton.

The Illinois Corn Growers Association has been monitoring the situation. In a recently issued press release, they indicated that they have been coordinating with the Waterways Council, Inc. to secure a letter from Illinois Governor Pat Quinn asking the Obama Administration to intervene and relieve the Corps of their obligation to reduce water flow from the reservoirs. Rod Weinzierl, Executive Director, Illinois Corn Growers and Illinois Corn Marketing Board, predicts that the hit in the pocketbook will be felt for months to come. "Putting fertilizer on trucks or trains instead of cheaper barges would increase farmer's prices," Weinzierl said. Source: ILLINOIS FARM UPDATE, Nov, 2012



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - LONNIE WILSON

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Happy New Year!

As we enter 2013, we have many challenges ahead of us. We need to find additional funding mechanisms, we are updating our MOU with NRCS, and we plan to start some new and exciting programs! Of course we have the Legislative challenges with operational and grant funding, prevailing wage, new revenue streams and of course the *new* gaming bill.

We were able to get the Open Meetings Act training bill back on to the floor of the Senate and it passed. So, soon we will be asking for you to contact the Governor's office asking him to sign HB5315. We are already working with the Attorney General's office to determine the best and easiest way to do this type of training.

This last week, Tom Byers and myself attended the NACD North Central Region (NC) board meeting on the 3rd and 4th. I would like to share with you a summary of the presentations and the actions at this meeting. Below are the dot points:

- The board agreed to offer two scholarships within the region for \$400 for an additional Director to attend a NACD event for the first time.
- NACD's new website is up and running.
- We reviewed the 2012 NACD Government Affairs Priorities with Earl Garber, NACD's President Elect and Laura Wood, Director of Legislative Affairs. Items that I feel are of interest to IL. are below. After the full board meeting when the final document is approved, we will share their 2013 priorities.
 - National Forest managed harvest,
 - Conservation compliance tied to crop insurance,
 - Additional targeted CRP acres above current cap,
 - Cover crops for healthy soils,
 - Programs to manage severe weather events, like droughts,
 - Programs to address the impacts of weather created by climate change,
 - Added Feral hogs to the land management issues for managed lands.
- We reviewed the following resolutions from NC and voted,
 - Beginning Farmer Definition (Minnesota) – I voted to support with added definition.
This is an attempt to get USDA to define and tighten the definition to limit possible abuses.
 - EQIP Contract Approval (Minnesota) – I voted to not support this
The intent for this is to set a deadline every year so better planning can be done at Districts, but the issue is if we set a deadline, the funding may not be available for NRCS causing full fiscal years to be skipped without a budget.
 - EQIP in new Farm Bill (Minnesota) – I voted to support
Lobby to keep EQIP in the next Farm Bill.
 - NRCS Conservation Plans (Michigan) – I voted to support
Apparently other states do not share or review/approve the Conservation Plans with their SWCD Board. I feel this is very important and support a NRCS national policy for this to occur everywhere.

– Separation of Duties Directive (Wisconsin) – I voted not to support. This resolution seeks to eliminate the Separation of Duties Directive set by NRCS. I feel this allows a non biased review to be done and limits the exposure of the local DC to the possible ridicule from upset land owners.

- We just received the full pad of proposed resolutions for the upcoming NACD Annual Board Meeting. Tom and I are reviewing these now and our plan is to prioritize the ones that effect our state and attend the committee meetings where these will be heard to determine the intent and if we will support them when the full board votes.
- We heard NRCS and EPA regional reports. The main thing I picked up on is Illinois is not getting the funding that other states are getting for watershed programs and BMP projects. One amount that sticks in my mind - we only received about 5.5% of some of our neighboring states. I plan to find out the reasons for this and see what we can do to get more of these funds into Illinois.
 - The regional representative for the employees' association (NCDEA), Sandy Stratman gave a very interesting report on each state's activities. I have to say, I am always proud of our employees and their efforts in the offices, but the outside efforts to support programs like Toys for Tots, Lions Club charities and of course the support for state association projects like the Farm Progress Show displays, Training and tours at conferences and the many task-forces we ask them to help with really stands out on the NC regions report. Thank you!
- The NC Regional Chairman and the Vice Chairman Elections occurred at this meeting.
 - The new Chairman is Mark Zabel from Minnesota. Mark is a good friend of mine and I feel he will lead our NC efforts very well.
 - The new Vice Chairman is Lonnie Wilson from, yes, Illinois.
- We have two national candidates for office from the NC Region.
 - Kent Stuckey is running for Secretary/Treasurer. Kent is a dairy farmer and row crop producer from Ohio. He has a lot of background in accounting and administration which I feel makes him the best candidate for this position.
 - Jerry Snodgrass is running for Second Vice President. Jerry is from Henry County here in Illinois and is currently serving as our NC Regional Executive Board Member. Jerry is also the Area 1 Vice President here in Illinois. Jerry is very involved currently and is the Chairman of the Natural Resource Policy Committee for NACD which sets most of the national policies that effect our conservation efforts. Jerry also is a member of the Farm Bill Task-force. I feel Jerry will be a great addition to the NACD leadership team.

Tom Byers, Kenny Vosholler and I will be attending the NACD conference at the end of the month. I will get a summary of the activities of the full board out to everyone once we return.

Once again, Happy New Year!



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S NOTES - *RICH NICHOLS*

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Welcome to 2013. In spite of the end of the Maya long count calendar on December 21, the world didn't end...well, not in the sense that there is nothing left. And, it hasn't ended for us either. The General Assembly is back for the lame duck session that will see the end of the 97th General Assembly and the end to any bills introduced by that assemblage that have not or will not pass before final adjournment on January 9th. We are still hopeful that legislation will pass that includes funding for the SWCDs. Most likely that will be a gaming bill of some sort or a supplemental appropriation to ease the FY 2013 reductions, or perhaps even both. Since this issue is going to be published before January 9th, anything more I would say about both possible legislative initiatives would be pure speculation at this point in time.

The new year does, however, bring some possibilities with it that may turn out as a positive for the SWCDs. Representative Frank Mautino has indicated he plans to author legislation that will provide funding for the Illinois Department of Agriculture to help repair damages to core programs that have been reduced or made ineffective to cuts over the past several years. AISWCD leadership has had a number of conversations with Representative Mautino and has assurances that the SWCDs will be a beneficiary of the initiative to restore funds to the Department. Even so, the process will be a difficult one at best. As with the bill to provide new revenue streams for IDNR, fees and added costs will arise and many if not most will likely be borne by the agricultural industry.

To make sure there are enough votes in both the House and Senate to pass such an initiative, the Ag community, including soil and water conservation districts, will have to come together and agree to any fees, taxes or other associated costs and be willing to aggressively support passage of such legislation. Without everyone at the table who may have a stake in or be affected by the proposed legislation, it simply will not pass.

Soil and water conservation districts can help by beginning to build coalitions now. The more people know about the legislation and the better they un-

derstand how it will affect them and why it is needed, the better the chances of success.

To help assure success with the IDNR bill, all of IDNR's constituent groups came together as one voice to assure members of the General Assembly that they supported paying more in fees because it would help the IDNR administered programs they use. We will need to do the same.

As we look ahead to the coming legislative year, we plan to have at least one other initiative that will need support from a large coalition. We hope to be able to enter legislation to ease the burden created by the Prevailing Wage Act requirements and in so doing make more money available for materials for constructing conservation practices. The substantial increase in the cost of labor to install needed practices has had a noticeable impact on the ability to implement those practices. Both landowners and contractors have refused to participate in the state cost share program because of the huge increase in costs.

As of yet it is not fully understood how adherence to the Prevailing Wage Act has affected soil erosion rates or water quality degradation but with the reluctance of many landowners to install more expensive practices, there is no doubt that these problems will continue to occur and will likely become worse as time passes.

We hope to be able to convince enough legislators that the Prevailing Wage Act is an issue that needs to be addressed. With your help and the help of other groups such as the Illinois Municipal League, the Illinois Association of County Officials, ILICA, the Illinois County Treasurers Association and Township Officials of Illinois among others, we believe we can get that job done.

Let's plan on 2013 being a good year for conservation and for the protection of our valuable land and water resources.

Rich



PROGRAM COORDINATOR'S PAGE - KELLY THOMPSON

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Greetings and Happy New Year to everyone!

WEBSITE

I am pleased to say the Illinois Urban Manual website will be getting a facelift along with the AISWCD website. The IUM Steering Committee voted at the September 24th meeting to allocate IUM funds, coupled with AISWCD funds, towards updating the website. This project will be taking place in the winter months between now and the end of February. If you have any suggestions or ideas on how to make the IUM webpage more user friendly, don't hesitate to email or call. Also, I will be looking for photographs of IUM practices being used throughout the State to place on the newly updated website. Please email the pictures to Kelly.Thompson@aiswcd.org.

CONFERENCE

Mark your calendars! The 14th Biennial Governor's Conference on Management of the Illinois River System is October 1 – 3, 2013 in Peoria, Illinois.

Planning for this conference is well underway. I along with Claudia Emken have been tasked as co-captains for the Community-oriented sessions. I'd like to extend an opportunity to any districts that know of municipalities, local watershed groups or community based groups located on or near the Illinois River that would be interested in presenting on activities they are currently utilizing to manage and enhance the ecosystem quality surrounding the river to please contact me for more information. For more information on the conference itself please visit this website: <http://www.conferences.uiuc.edu/conferences/conference.asp?ID=413>

IUM PRACTICE STANDARDS

The IUM Steering Committee voted at the December 18th meeting to accept and enter into contract with Tetra Tech to complete the next five practice standards:

- Bio-Retention Facility
- Detention Basin, Dry
- Detention Basin, Extended
- Detention Basin, Wet Bottom
- Detention Basin, Wetland

Both committees are looking forward to working with Tetra Tech and its employees on this project. The practice standards will be completed by November 2013.

Have a wonderful month of January!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kelly".



ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT'S UPDATE - *SHERRY FINN*

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November & December Activities

319 CREP Resource Specialist:

- Prepared Health Ins, Dental Ins, Life, STD & LTD forms for new hires
- Made reservations for lunch at Long Bridge for new hires and IDNR CREP manager
- Made hotel reservations for new hires for training
- Made reservations with Northfield for Dinner for CREP Housing District Chairmen, new hires, and CREP participants
- Handed out travel expense vouchers to new hires for reporting and reimbursement
- Handed out IL & Federal Tax documents to be completed by new hires
- Contacted NRCS and handed out documentation for access info to new hires; handed out 2013 info security awareness training pamphlets; had new hires take testing and mailed tests to NRCS.
- Did fingerprinting (compliments of Trooper John Thompson) for new hires for computer access; mailed information to NRCS.
- Sent timesheets and expense voucher templates to new hires at Housing District
- Completed training class sponsored by IDNR at IEPA with new hires
- Completed QuickBooks payroll information updates for new hires
- Faxed and e-mailed completed insurance documents to agent and SWCD Insurance Administrator.
- Prepared paychecks and mailed to CREP Resource Specialists for November & December.

OTHER DUTIES:

- Phone calls, mail and e-mail correspondence
- Compiled expense reports for Credit Cards
- Maintain Patio Paver and Rain Barrel Database
- 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; contacted Districts for upcoming issues spotlight information
- Maintaining Earth Stewardship Bank Account
- Maintaining IL Envirothon Bank Account
- Contacted all Website companies that submitted bids; notified the company selected to update AISWCD website
- Contacted all Auditors that submitted bids and notified them of Board decision; working to set date with selected auditor for 2012 audit.
- Working on Conservation Tour for 2013 Annual Meeting with Sangamon County SWCD staff; working with Northfield Inn and Ramada to establish conference rooms and hotel rooms.
- Sent AISWCD Board Officers and Members update to NACD and NRCS.

- Registered Lonnie Wilson & Tom Beyers for the NACD North Central Region meeting in Chicago; sent agendas and confirmation information to both.
- Sent registration confirmations and agendas to Lonnie Wilson, Tom Beyers & Kenny Vosholler for the NACD Annual Meeting in San Antonio, Texas

ACCOUNTING/OFFICE ADMIN:

- Completed Payroll and Payroll Taxes for November & December
- Reconciled all bank accounts ; forwarded info to Kenny Vosholler, AISWCD treasurer
- Completed bookwork for All AISWCD & SWCD Insurance Accts
- Completed Checks for Payables; Completed Deposits for Receivables; Completed Monthly Financials; sent to Kenny
- Filed all Completed Payables & Receivables Documentation
- Wrote checks for SWCD various insurance premiums; had Rich sign; mailed; e-mailed copies to Debbie Holsapple (November) & Melissa Cauble (December)
- Completed Semi-Monthly IL Lobbyist Expenditure Data for IL Secretary of State for November & December.
- Set up QuickBooks employee accounts for the new office assistant
- Ordered additional checks and deposit slips for SWCD Insurance Account
- Registered and Paid NACD Annual Meeting Fee for Lonnie, Tom, Kenny & Kelly.

LOOKING AHEAD:

- Annual Meeting Taskforce teleconference calls
- Updating Annual Meeting Award Forms; registration forms; and hotel information
- SWCDs Annual Meetings
- Updating Website with December QB information
- AISWCD March QB meeting

A time to think: For an extreme makeover, try a faith-lift!

**To Act: Let your heart swell with love and compassion.
It is the surest way to a healthy heart!**

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!!

**MAY THE YEAR 2013
BE PROSPEROUS AND FULL
OF GOOD CHEER!!**

Sherry



Office Assistant's Information - Gina Bean

gina.bean@aiswcd.org

Happy New Year to all!

It has been a great first month and a half here at AISWCD for me. Busy too, but that's the way I like my work settings. I learn so much every day and I know I still have much to experience.

I have never had the pleasure of going to something like the employee winter training that was held last month. One of my favorite times was the relaxation session. It will be useful at my job here at AISWCD and at the YMCA, but I think we all have stressful times in our daily routines, outside of work, and will prove very useful in everyday life situations.


The Cover Crops session was also interesting. I live next to a lot of farm ground, and before I really didn't know much about it. Now I find it fun to go out to one of the fields and try to educate my family on what I have learned. All of the sessions were useful and I wish I could have sat in on all of them.

December also marked my very first Quarterly Board meeting. I had no idea as to how much time, effort, and work goes into such a meeting. It was a little overwhelming and some times crazy because I am learning everything, but completely worth it in the end. Some might think I'm crazy but now I'm really looking forward to helping get things ready for the annual meeting in July.

Like I said in the last Conservation Catchall, my degree is in Communications. I can't even begin to tell everyone how lucky and happy I am that I am finally being able to use my degree in some way here at AISWCD. There are going to be many more adventures in my future here at the office I am sure!

Have a great 2013!

Gina



**Illinois
COVER
CROPS**

**Practical Strategies
for Your Farm**

January 29-30, 2013
Decatur Hotel & Conference Center
Decatur, Illinois

Registration for this meeting is just \$49 and includes two meals (one dinner and one lunch), a reception, refreshment breaks to meet with exhibitors, several general sessions, multiple concurrent sessions and luncheon roundtable sessions. To take advantage of the "early bird" registration, [register](#) by January 21st. Registration increases to \$125 after that date.



ISWCDEA CORNER - KARA DOWNIN, ISWCDEA RC VICE CO-CHAIR AND REGION ONE REPRESENTATIVE

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

Winter Training was a great success! Thank you to everyone who assisted in the planning and execution of the event. It is certainly a team effort! There was higher attendance than last year and there was a survey turn-in rate of over 40% each day. We had great feedback on the surveys and we'll use the comments to improve or retain changes for next year.

The 2013 Employee Association board will conduct their first meeting in February. Please contact your regional employee representatives with any comments, concerns or questions to take with them to the meeting.

Ag Legislative Day will soon be upon us. We strongly encourage Directors and Staff alike to attend this important face-to-face event with Illinois Legislators. There are several new members in both the House and Senate that need to hear us out. The Employee Association has annually met with legislators during the morning of the event and then made plans to meet up for lunch so we can reconvene and swap notes. Hope to see you there!

We hope that everyone will have a blessed new year!



ILLINOIS CHAPTER - IAAP - SHARON MATSON, PRESIDENT

website: <http://iaap-swcd.tripod.com>

I have accepted the Presidency (stepping up from the Vice President) for the IAAP SWCD Chapter when Debbie Holsapple accepted another job outside of our humble family. I have worked for the Henry County SWCD in Cambridge, Illinois since December 5, 1999. Jill Harre replaced my position as Vice Chairman. Brenda McMillan is our treasurer and Melissa Cauble is the secretary. We have big steps to follow, but I do believe we can fill the shoes!

We sponsored two workshops during PowerPoint presentation by Amy Bloj.

The IAAP held a meet and greet during winter training. We didn't have many attend because of a concurrent meeting. Brenda McMillan won the \$25.00 gift card.

The IAAP also held a raffle for the 2 days of winter training. Sharon Matson, Donna Roads and John Lundquist won the raffle drawings; a huge thanks to everyone who purchased raffle tickets.



Sharon Matson

~NAGS~

Natural Area Guardians - Debra Carey

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BEE A GOOD GARDENER!

The earth is frozen, hopefully protected under a mantle of snow, but I am already planning the spring vegetable and flower gardens! Recently I picked a helpful brochure published by the Xerces Society in collaboration with the Natural Resources Conservation Service. The brochure outlined principals of farming for crop pollinators and critical requirements for native bees, plus showed a double-page diagram of a well-designed garden. The words inspired me to not only garden with fresh and juicy tomatoes in mind but with the needs of the pollinators of those tomatoes also in mind.

Native bees are critical to the success of crop pollination; we have all read and heard of the serious decline in honey bees. A few simple steps can insure that your garden, yard or farm is a safe haven for native bees. Plus when you create suitable habitat for bees, you are also putting out the welcome mat for many other beneficial and beautiful insects. Who doesn't enjoy the flutter of a bright-spangled butterfly while pulling weeds on a hot afternoon?

The three main principals of assisting native pollinators are as follows:

1. **Know the habitat of your property.** Is it wetland, woodland, meadow or do you have a vast barren expanse of closely-mown lawn?
2. **Protect flowering plants and nest sites.** If you are fortunate to have native habitat, do what you can to ensure the health of the habitat.
3. **Enhance or create flowering plants and nest sites.** Start from scratch if need be or add more native species to your site.

What do native bees require to survive and thrive?

1. **Food.** (Don't we all!) But bees eat only pollen and nectar and traveling from one plant to the next is what the pollination process is all about. Native plant species are generally more helpful since they flower throughout the growing season and produce abundant pollen and nectar. Some hybridized flowers do not produce any nectar; they are "all show and no go" when it come to the bees.
2. **Shelter.** We think of wax honeycombs when we think of honeybees but our native bee species do not build such elaborate structures. Native bees do need a place to rest and a place to nest. Native wood-nesting bees are solitary and nest in soft-pithed twigs or beetle tunnels. You can create a nest site by drilling many small holes in a wooden post and placing in firmly in your garden. Please don't use a chemically-treated post. Ground-nesting bees construct tunnels under bare ground – leave a few spaces of bare earth in your garden, make a few shallow mounds, and give them plenty of privacy. Cavity-nesting bees use available spaces like a gopher burrow. You can create enticing spaces by making a loose pile of rocks.
3. **Protection from chemicals.** Most insecticides are deadly to bees (and maybe to us, too). Garden organically. Control weeds with muscle power, not chemicals. If you must use an insecticide, choose one that targets only the intended pest, follow directions explicitly, use granules as opposed to liquids and if you do spray, do so on still evenings when pollinators are not active.
4. **Minimize tillage.** When we continually turn over the soil, we unintentionally disrupt bee nests.
5. **Allow crops to bolt or go to seed.** If you can spare the room in your garden, let that lettuce or broccoli go to flower – the native bees will appreciate the extra food source.
6. **Set aside areas and plant with permanent native species.** A hedge of hazelnut, a copse of cherry, a bunch of blazing star, a group of Golden Alexander – I could go on and on!
7. **Work with your neighbors!** Together we can create large and sustainable areas for native pollinators. Set a good example for your neighbors by not using chemicals. Gently explain to neighbors that chemicals they spray on their property might drift to your garden and harm the pollinators.
8. **Water.** Yes, water is magic. Any kind, anywhere. A small pond will attract all manner of wildlife.
9. **Borders.** We used to have fencerows. We need them once again. People complain about the lack of rabbits or quail or butterflies but take a look at our fields – they are immense, and bare as far as the eye can see.

A Resting Place..... A Breathing Space.....

A world of magic still survives along these old fencerows,
A myriad of creatures live where the tractor never goes.

Prairie remnants hug the wire, a tangled, rusty maze,
While berries and brown thrashers share the sultry summer haze.

The tip of an old hedge post provides a lookout for a crow,
And bluebirds make a happy home in the hollowed space below.

A travel lane for creatures who shun the furrowed field,
For without this precious shelter, their fate is surely sealed.

Foxes and shrews and butterflies all need this old fencerow,
Oh, spare this narrow strip of land, this relic from long ago.

KDSWCD INSPECTS BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION FOR COMPLIANCE WITH CLEAN WATER ACT

On December 15, 2012, the new Red Gate Bridge in St. Charles, Illinois was opened to vehicle traffic over the Fox River. The Kane-DuPage Soil and Water Conservation District was involved in the project by providing soil erosion and sediment control inspections and reports for the United States Army Corps of Engineers and Illinois EPA. Candice Jacobs and Ashley Jennings coordinated inspections with the City of St. Charles and Construction Management Company, Benesch, to do a walk through periodically to ensure that best management practices were in place and being maintained. As a result of the coordination, natural resources including the Fox River and its nearby tributaries were protected from erosion and sedimentation.

This 31 million dollar project started in August of 2011. The bridge provides a two lane vehicular traffic crossing as well as a suspended pedestrian bridge underneath. A traffic study done the week after the bridge opened counted 5,198 vehicles using the bridge during a 24 hour period. This bridge will provide yet another route across the Fox River to help relieve congestion in downtown St. Charles. Added benefits include a more timely response for emergency vehicles; shortening the distance between the two high schools in St. Charles, and reduced travel time for commuters.



Bridge Construction November 2012



Ribbon Cutting Ceremony December 15, 2012

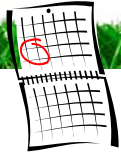
Editors Note: This is the second Fox River bridge project in which the Kane-DuPage SWCD staff has played a significant roll in helping to assure that the construction schedule remained on time and on budget. Great work folks!

**national
groundwater
awareness week**
March 10-16, 2013

Celebrate National Groundwater Awareness Week

Groundwater is a precious, limited resource. It is worth protecting.

You can find information on National Groundwater Awareness Week at
www.wellowner.org.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- New Year's Day - Tuesday January 1, 2013 - Office Closed
- NACD North Central Region Meeting - January 3 - 4, Four Points Sheraton Hotel, Schiller Park, IL
- ILICA Convention - January 10 - 12, 2013, President Abraham Lincoln Hotel - Springfield, IL
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day - Monday, January 21st - Office Closed
- Cover Crops in Illinois - January 29-30, Decatur Conference Center and Hotel, Decatur, IL [Register](#) before Jan. 1st
- 2013 Regional Tillage Seminar - January 31, 2013, Wise Guys 2205 N. Main St. Princeton, IL (This is the only one)

2013 QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING DATES

- March 2013 Quarterly Board Meeting - March 11th (Executive Comm. at IDOA) 12th - Northfield Inn - Springfield, IL
- June 2013 Quarterly Board Meeting - June 10th & 11th - Northfield Inn - Springfield, IL
- September 2013 Quarterly Board Meeting - September 10th - Teleconference (Only if Needed)
- December 2013 Quarterly Board Meeting - December 9th & 10th - Northfield Inn - Springfield, IL

December dates of note:

- Mayan Calendar Ends - 21st - is it the end of Humanity!?
- National Chocolate Day - 24th
- New Year's Eve - 31st

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:

- National Bird Day - 5th
- Bean Day - 6th
- Bubble Bath Day - 8th
- Houseplant Appreciation Day - 10th
- National Pharmacist Day - 12th
- Friday the 13th
- National Hat Day - 15th
- National Nothing Day - 16th
- Ditch New Years Resolutions Day - 17th
- Thesaurus Day - 18th
- National Popcorn Day - 19th
- Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday , celebrated on the third Monday - 21st
- National Pie Day - 23rd
- Chocolate Cake Day - 27th
- Fun at Work Day - 28th
- National Cornchip Day - 29th
- Backward Day - 31st

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

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