

## **Jefferson County Soil & Water Conservation District**

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### **Southern Illinois Environmental Compliance Seminar**

The Jefferson County and Williamson County Soil & Water Conservation Districts teamed up with A.S.P. Enterprises to organize an Environmental Compliance Seminar dealing with urban erosion problems. This was a step in a new direction for both SWCDs as we typically focus on rural issues. We noticed that there was a need to reach out to the urban contractors and educate them so they can be responsible stewards of our soil and water. Our goal was to educate the urban community on the regulations for development sites and best management practices to control soil erosion and manage sediment runoff. Topics that were covered include NPDES Phase II Stormwater Regulations, Preparing and Implementing Stormwater Plans Onsite, ABCs of Best Management Practices, Site Plan Reviews and Measures for Compliance, IDOT Perspectives of NPDES, Understanding How and When to Work on Streams, and Water Quality and Quantity Systems. A total of 6.5 PDH credit hours were offered to each participant. The target audience was engineers, inspectors, municipalities, urban contractors, Certified Professionals of Erosion and Sediment Control (CPESCs), highway departments, and architects.

The Seminar was held on January 15, 2009, at the Holiday Inn in Mt. Vernon, Illinois with a total of 106 participants in attendance. Attendees came from as far away as Paducah, KY and Jacksonville, IL. Many positive remarks and suggestions were received about the seminar from the completed surveys. There is a great interest in an outdoor workshop demonstrating best management practices. Also, the participants would like to see this kind of seminar offered every year or at least every other year. The success of the event was due to the coordinated efforts of A.S.P. Enterprises, the Southern Illinois SWCDs, IEPA, IDOT, the City of Carbondale, and Midwest Streams, Inc. Special thanks to A.S.P. Enterprises, who has a strong interest in education of BMPs, for being the primary sponsor, helping with speaker contacts, and handling the registration process.



Don Thieman, CPESC, of ASP Enterprises discusses the ABCs of Best Management Practices (BMPs).