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**Protecting Water Quality in Urban Centers of Illinois Grant – Phase II
Urban Water Quality Best Management Practices Tour - September 25, 2008**

Sangamon County SWCD hosted an Urban Water Quality Best Management Practices Tour focusing on National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) rules and regulations which target sediment and erosion control on construction sites before, during and after construction. This tour was possible through an EPA 319 grant administered by the Association of IL Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

About 70 key persons invited on this tour were:

- Mayor of Springfield
- Sangamon County Board
- City of Springfield Aldermen
- Springfield Sangamon County Regional Planning Commission
- Springfield CWLP and Public Works Department officials
- Sangamon County Highway and Public Health Department officials
- Springfield Area Home Builders Association members
- Springfield Chamber of Commerce and Q5 members
- Local engineering firms
- USDA/NRCS Assistant Conservationist and District Conservationist
- Department of Agriculture representative
- EPA Division of Water representative
- AISWCD representatives
- Sangamon County SWCD Directors

CPESC explains proper installation of
BMP erosion control materials



Tour group visits Walmart storm water
runoff wetland, an excellent BMP site



Each of the attendees received a brochure entitled “Urban Water Quality Best Management Practices Tour”, a booklet with pictures of erosion and sediment problem areas, a copy of a NPDES permit and a “Field Manual on Sediment and Erosion Control Best Management Practices for Contractors and Inspectors”.

Don Thieman, a Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control (CPESC) led the discussion at each of the four stops throughout Springfield and the surrounding area. Areas of concern for erosion and sediment control were pointed out at each of the stops, suggestions were made for proper selection and implementation of best management practices, and discussion was encouraged among the attendees. Also discussed were the federal/state NPDES regulations, fees assessed for non-compliance, the severity of these penalties and who has primary responsibility for complying with the NPDES regulations.

Shortly after this tour, county zoning officials finalized and moved their erosion control ordinance through the process for action by the Sangamon County Board and was approved at their December 14th meeting. A similar ordinance is in the process of being finalized for the City of Springfield.

The quality of Springfield and Sangamon County’s water supply for all its citizens will be greatly improved with proper implementation of BMPs at construction sites. Sangamon County SWCD has been actively working to reduce soil erosion and improve the water quality in both the rural and urban areas of Sangamon County for many, many years and this tour was just one more step towards achieving these two conservation goals.