

AISWCD

Executive Director's Bi-Monthly Report

Thursday, December 18, 2014

Greetings all!

I hope this report finds you in a festive holiday spirit! Can you believe, Christmas is only 7 days away and the New Year is just 14 days away! Where has the time gone? This will be my last report for 2014. I hope this information is helpful. Look forward to seeing and working with you in 2015!

AISWCD OFFICE UPDATE

Gina and I participated in a two day QuickBooks training course in Springfield. The course was very helpful. As many of you know we have changed office procedures and will now have myself as the QuickBooks Admin and Gina designated as a user.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Myron and I were unable to visit legislators as planned. Mike Hoffmann has rescheduled our visit to early February.

I and Mike Hoffmann have reached out to the **Agriculture Transition Team** co-chairs. A policy brief has been submitted to their committee outlining the work of SWCDs. A few other districts have notified us that they intended to reach out to the transition team as well. If you would like to do so please contact the office, we'll be glad to give you the contact information.

Legislative Day 2015 has been set with Mike Hoffmann's guidance ...Tuesday, March 10th from 10:30am – 6:00pm. We will again have a reception at Boone's Saloon from 4:00pm-6:00pm. More information regarding this event will be available soon.

NUTRIENT LOSS REDUCTION STRATEGY

As many of you may know the NLRs document is out for public review. Illinois EPA has placed the document on their website for a two month period starting November 24 – January 24, 2015. The link is provided on AISWCD's website as well as Facebook and below. SWCD Staff, please spread the word to your district board members, especially those without email. Link: <http://www.aiswcd.org/nutrient-loss-reduction-strategy/>

ISWCDEA WINTER TRAINING

The office staff and CRSs attended Winter Training early this month. The ISWCDEA put on a fantastic program both days. We enjoyed the invitation to participate and look forward to next year!

ILLINOIS AGRICULTURE LEGISLATIVE DAY

This event has been set for March 5, 2015. Each year AISWCD donates tree saplings to place in the baskets that get distributed by FFA students to the legislators. This year we intend to do the same. If any district is interested in attending this event please contact the office. We make legislative visits, similar to the AISWCD Legislative Day. It never

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hurts to make multiple visits within the same month. The more they hear SWCDs and understand districts the more funding opportunities become available.

NRCS CLIENT GATEWAY

If you read the dot point highlights from December QB meetings, you'll know that the AISWCD Board voted to enter into a contract with NRCS to allow SWCDs to complete administrative tasks related to the new Client Gateway Program. The details of this contract are not yet available however this program will be open to all 97 SWCDs (in good standing with AISWCD). AISWCD will be administering party and thus good standing is required according to AISWCD bylaws. More details will be shared as they become available.

As always, if you have any questions or comments at all, don't hesitate to call the office! Remember, AISWCD works for Districts...without SWCDs, the Association would not exist!

Have very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Kelly Thompson

