

AISWCD

Executive Director's Bi-Monthly Report

Friday, May 15, 2015

NLRS ROADSHOW

The Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy Roadshow will be ramping up in about 30 days. Illinois Council on Best Management Practices (IL C-BMP) along with Illinois Farm Bureau will be traveling around the state to present information on the Strategy document that was developed in 2014. The information provided at each meeting will include but not limited to the following:



- Background information on the NLRS
- Summary of the science in each region/watershed
- Information on implementation of the strategy
- Toolbox of best management practices to use on farmland
- Presentations to local stakeholders
- Individual on site water sampling and results
- Meal is provided

We are asking each SWCD (employees and directors) to attend at least one of the 11 meetings taking place throughout the state. If you sign-up to attend your name will be entered into a drawing for a free Summer Conference/Annual Meeting registration. Please note, you need to sign-up no later than May 15th. We are also asking that two group leaders be identified for each meeting. There will be an opportunity for SWCDs to give a brief/informal presentation and the group leaders will be the one responsible for this task.

The more SWCD staff and directors know about the NLRS the greater opportunity SWCDs have in obtaining funds to complete the implementation portion of the strategy. Knowledge is key and it will set SWCDs apart and show other organizations that SWCDs are here to stay and are best suited for this job. Please consider attending one of the Roadshows. The schedule can be accessed via AISWCD website: <http://www.aiswcd.org/nutrient-loss-reduction-strategy-roadshow/>

It is imperative that SWCD Directors and Staff attend one of the 11 meetings being held during the month of June. While the 11 meetings may not be located within your region or county bounds, the information that will be presented pertains to the overall NLRS document. Each meeting will feature a presentation from IL Farm Bureau, IL Council on BMPs, Dr. Mark David of U of I, Illinois EPA and SWCDs. Please be sure to attend one meeting.

Please email either Gina, Abbie Sperry or I by **COB TODAY** if you plan to attend one of the Roadshow presentations to be entered to win a FREE Summer Conference Registration! We will draw a minimum of 5 winners during the week of May 18th. Good luck and thank you all for planning to attend the NLRS Roadshow meetings! **You will also need to register with the County Farm Bureau office where the meeting is being held.** They will provide a meal and need an accurate number of attendees for that purpose. AISWCD can certainly assist with any questions you may have regarding the meetings.

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CDSI – CLIENT GATEWAY – CONTRIBUTION AGREEMENTS

Great news...AISWCD has a signed contract with NRCS! Please look for an email early next week with details on how your District can sign-up for this contribution agreement opportunity. AISWCD apologizes for the short turn-around time but please see the key dates below.

- **June 1st** – email Kelly Thompson and Gina Bean stating your District will participate in the Contribution Agreement with AISWCD.
- **June 15th** – email Kelly Thompson and Gina Bean a copy of the Contribution Agreement contract with required signatures. AISWCD will sign and mail a copy back to your District.

AISWCD has been instructed that the entire state needs to have coverage for both administrative assistance and CRP. The reason for the June 1st date is to allow AISWCD to determine which areas may not have coverage as some SWCDs may opt out and not participate in the CDSI-Client Gateway or the CRP agreement. If that is the case, AISWCD will offer neighboring SWCDs the opportunity to sign-up to complete the work. SWCDs who sign up to complete work for additional SWCDs will be stated in the contract agreement.

We know the timeline might be difficult for some so we can offer the AISWCD conference line if you wish to hold a special Board Meeting to discuss and approve the contract. Please contact Gina Bean if this is of interest to your district. Please note the conference line is 6 cents/minute but your District will not be charged any service fees.

Mark your Calendars! CDSI-Client Gateway TRAINING - NRCS will be hosting webinar training on **June 11th from 9am-12pm.** This is a webinar so it is likely that you will not need to leave your office to attend. If your District is unable to participate in this training, the training webinars are recorded and can be viewed at a later date/time.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

PLEASE CONTINUE TO COMMUNICATE WITH YOUR LEGISLATORS!

Discuss with them ***how will funding cuts will and are affecting their legislative district and the state as a whole.*** Keep reminding them throughout the legislative session on how important Soil and Water Conservation is to Illinois. Legislators need to hear from their constituents. One last time, **I can't stress how important it is to call your legislator to let them know how a cut in funding will not only affect SWCDs but their legislative district as well.** Please continue to carry this message throughout the year as it is imperative that we are all carrying a clear and concise message.

Letter to Governor and more... I compiled testimony I received from several SWCD employees into a letter addressed to Governor Rauner. The letter was mailed on Friday, May 8th and was also sent to several key legislators, Director Nelson at IDOA and Director Nuding at GOMB.

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ILLINOIS RIVER CONFERENCE

This year the 15th Biennial Governor's Conference on the Management of the Illinois River System is being held October 27-29, 2015 in Peoria at the Marriott Pere Marquette. SWCD employees and directors have a unique opportunity to attend the Tuesday Watershed Tour plus afternoon CPESC workshop and a one-day conference pass for Wednesday at the cost of \$100 plus room and travel. Please contact me if you are interested in attending either Tuesday & Wednesday or just Tuesday. The Tuesday tour is just \$30 to attend with lunch included. Below is a brief description of the Watershed Tour. The CPESC workshop agenda is being developed. If you have suggestions for the workshop please let me know.



A **Watershed Tour** will take place on **Tuesday, October 27, 2015 | 9:00 AM – 12:30 PM**

Overview: Infiltrate the green infrastructure movement within the Greater Metropolitan Peoria Area! This tour will reveal the urban side of our theme The Illinois River: A Watershed Partnership by visiting project sites to see the practices and to hear from the partners who did the work. The tour will be by charter bus and will include stops at a variety of locations to let you investigate stormwater runoff control efforts for both public and private land. Lunch and refreshments will be provided.

AISWCD ANNUAL MEETING



NEW THIS YEAR ...

An **Exhibit Hall** will feature partners and products. We have several exhibitors already signed up and confirmed. If you know of someone who might be a good fit please contact us ASAP as space is limited and filling up quickly. We have 5 spaces remaining! If you know of a vendor who might like to purchase a booth please forward the exhibit form to them today...http://www.aiswcd.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/Exhibitor-Form_2015.pdf

A **Sunday Tour** will be offered for those who like to travel to Springfield a day early. You don't want to miss out on this tour...on the agenda is a visit to a local restaurant with a roof-top garden, a local brewery complete with beverage samples and much more! Be sure to sign-up early as space is limited! Check the "Sunday Tour" on your registration form...<http://www.aiswcd.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/Registration-Forms.pdf>

Live Auction is unique this year in that we will have 10 large ticket items to bid on during the Live Auction. We need a list of all items no later than June 1st so we can advertise on the website and in the auction booklet. If your district is interested in donating \$25-50 to help purchase these large ticketed items please let either Gina or I know ASAP.

Please note: the auction is a money-maker for education programs. Our partners: Auxiliary, Envirothon, ISWCDEA all hope to receive a portion of the money raised to help fund their individual education/outreach needs.

Bring your spouse and family to this year's Annual Meeting & Summer Conference. There will be plenty of activities for the whole family!

SERVICES PROVIDED BY AISWCD

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AISWCD is grateful for Soil and Water Conservation Districts! We'd like to provide a list of services that we currently offer to our SWCD members.

- ❖ **Lobbying** for SWCD funds
- ❖ Registered **Lobbyist**
- ❖ **Discounted Insurance Premiums** (AISWCD holds the master policy and gets reimbursed by IDOA)
 - Directors and Officers Liability
 - Business Auto
 - Package Policy (property, inland marine and general liability)
 - Umbrella Policy
 - Workers Compensation
- ❖ **Program & Grant Opportunities** – Contribution Agreements
- ❖ State Envirothon Competition
- ❖ Illinois Urban Manual – coordination & update
- ❖ Informational material – email based (il.all subscription)
- ❖ Conservation Catchall publication
- ❖ Legislative Day Reception
- ❖ Tech Soup – technology discounts

We greatly appreciate your membership! Please let us know how we can better serve your district by submitting comments to Kelly.thompson@aiswcd.org. I will direct any comments or question to the AISWCD Executive Board members.

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!

Remember to **INFORM** your Legislators!

You can never send them enough information on activities taking place in
your district!

*Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is a process; working
together is success.*

~Henry Ford



Kelly Thompson