



CONSERVATION CATCHALL

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Jake Vancil

**This Years Summer Conference is just
around the corner!!!
Thank you to all of our Sponsors!**



BE SURE TO CHECK OUT THIS YEAR'S EXHIBIT HALL!



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ALLIANCE**
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Exhibit Hall BINGO Cards

**Available at the registration table for your
chance to win a 32" LG TV!**

**Be sure to stop at the ISWCDEA and Auxiliary tables
as well. They are also on your BINGO card!**



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - MYRON KIRBY

kirbyfarms@yahoo.com

What a fast first year of being President of the Association!

At this time, there is still no FY2016 state budget. We hope there is progress soon. We are expecting to stay level for the FY16 budget with funding close, if not the same, to what prior budgets have been. That does not mean we will sit back and relax. We are continually working with our lobbyist and legislators to keep funds level. It is important to keep the SWCD name on all legislator's radars through out the year. Please continue to talk to legislators in your area and remind them of our cause and importance. We need to be a united front and look after all SWCDs and their importance.

Please remember your association worked very hard to receive the funding that we did receive in the FY2015 budget.. Some state programs were not funded in the FY2015 budget, but we were still able to obtain funding. The state is still working out its very rough financial situation, but we have high hopes that the FY2016 budget will be better.

Although the state budget is not set, we will soon have some funds from NRCS coming in to the Districts. We are working with a pilot program with the Corn Growers Association, Soy Bean Association, Farm Bureau, and others to be in a 10 county area. The details of that project are being worked out as we go along and we will update as more information is gained. Please be aware that NRCS and the Corn Growers Association have told the Association that this work would not have been passed to the Districts if they did not have the Association to work with.

We continue to meet with partners to introduce new ways we can partner to help conservation and have SWCDs implement the work to gain new sources of funding. There have been meetings with other state agencies such as the IEPA Director and staff to discuss the role that Soil and Water Conservation Districts play in the future of conservation.

Summer Conference is upon us. I hope everyone has a chance to attend. Summer Conference is a great outlet for Districts, AISWCD, and Partners to come together in one location to network and learn. Please try to attend as many sessions as possible, for they all will bring important topics to SWCD offices.

Always remember...

The Association works for the Districts so they may do their job of conserving our soil and keeping our water and air clean.

-Myron



CDSI-Client Gateway / Contribution Agreements Frequently Asked Questions

First I'd like to start by saying, please understand this is the first time for the Sub-agreements so expect growing pains. AISWCD expects the many issues to get resolved sooner rather than later but know everyone will experience bumps along the way. Any paperwork or reporting questions should and must be directed to AISWCD and not surrounding SWCDs or NRCS. All technical work-related questions can be directed to AISWCD or your local NRCS staff. AISWCD apologizes for any confusion throughout this duration of the Sub-agreement.

AISWCD has distributed signed and finalized Sub-Agreements to SWCDs. If your District did not receive a final copy of the Sub-agreement that indicates AISWCD is waiting on missing paperwork. AISWCD cannot issue payment to your SWCD until all paperwork is received.

Below are deadlines to submit reports and reimbursement paperwork. Also listed below are numerous questions AISWCD has received from SWCDs over the past week. We hope to address all of the issues that arise and any questions your District may have regarding the final Sub-Agreement.

Sub-Agreement Report/Reimbursement Deadline Dates

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| July 15 – | All Districts participating in the Administrative Assistance-Client Gateway-CDSI sub-agreement should have submitted the following paperwork to Gina Bean:
Attachment G – Administrative Assistance Financial Reimbursement Report
Attachment B – Work Products |
| August 15 - | All Districts participating in the Administrative Assistance-Client Gateway-CDSI sub-agreement must submit the following paperwork to Gina Bean:
Attachment G – Administrative Assistance Financial Reimbursement Report
Attachment B – Work Products |

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September 15 – All Districts participating in the **Administrative Assistance-Client Gateway-CDSI sub-agreement** must submit the following paperwork to Gina Bean:
Attachment G – Administrative Assistance Financial Reimbursement Report
Attachment B – Work Products
All Districts participating in the **Technical Assistance sub-agreement** must submit the following paperwork to Gina Bean:
Attachment G – Technical Assistance Financial Reimbursement Report
Attachment B –
Develop Conservation Plans for CRP
Develop Conservation Plans for Re-enrolled CRP Acres
Partial Work to Develop Conservation Plans for Re-enrolled CRP Acres
Complete Annual Status Reviews – Active CRP Contracts
CRP Practice Application
CRP Practice Certification and Checkout
CRP Admin

*If your District has not completed work in one of the above A-G categories, then your District is NOT required to submit a document for the category in which you have no work completed.

CDSI-Client Gateway F.A.Q.

Q: *How frequently will my District be paid for the Administrative Assistance agreement?*

A: The District will be paid monthly, provided you submit your reimbursement invoices on time to AISWCD. The amount you will receive is approximately \$386.66 per month.

Q: *Will additional training be provided for District staff to complete the CDSI-Client Gateway option?*

A: Additional training will be set by NRCS if the need arises. The first training took place on June 11 via webinar. Each district should have received the PowerPoint through the NRCS bulletin. If your District did not receive a copy please contact AISWCD.

Q: *How do I fill out the Attachment G – Financial Reimbursement Report spreadsheet?*

A: On Monday, July 13th an email was sent via IL.ALL with a How-To guide to filling out this spreadsheet. If your District did not receive the email please contact AISWCD.

Q: *How will my District receive payment for the Administrative Assistance agreement?*

A: All Districts will be issued a paper check for payment. At this time we are not offering direct deposit.

Q: *What if my District meets the 50% match requirement within the first month of work, or before the terms of the Sub-Agreement concludes?*

A: AISWCD will notify your District if you meet your match requirement. Your District will still need to provide Administrative Assistance for the duration of the terms listed in the Sub-Agreement – 12 months.

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CRP Contribution Agreements

Q: *When can I invoice for the CRP Technical Assistance agreement?*

A: Each District needs to invoice on a quarterly basis. We have spoken with many Districts and we believe this is the most efficient way of invoicing. If your District has an issue with quarterly billing please contact AISWCD.

Q: *How does my District keep track of the work completed under the Technical Assistance agreement?*

A: Attachment B is where your District will document the work completed on a daily, weekly, monthly and quarterly basis. An email was sent via IL.ALL on Monday, July 20th with the updated Attachment B spreadsheet. If you did not receive this email please contact AISWCD.

Q: *How will my District receive payment for the Technical Assistance agreement?*

A: All Districts will be issued a paper check for payment. At this time we are not offering direct deposit.

General Questions

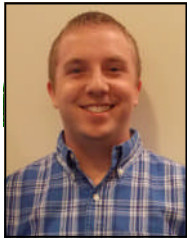
Q: *What if my District withdraws from either portion of the agreement?*

A: The District will need to notify AISWCD in writing that they are withdrawing from the Sub-Agreement. The District will not receive payment from that date forward. Any work previously conducted needs to be submitted on the appropriate forms and submitted to AISWCD immediately. AISWCD will then issue a final payment within 30 days of receiving all required reimbursement forms, if applicable.

I hope the above information is helpful. Should you have any additional questions please notify AISWCD. We will attempt to provide a quick response should you email us. Please note we are receiving numerous emails on a daily basis and still trying to keep up with daily AISWCD duties and tasks.

We appreciate your feedback and look forward to working with each SWCD as we move forward!

*Kelly Thompson, Executive Director
Gina Bean, Administrative Coordinator*



IUM/Watershed Coordinator—Matt Hanauer

matt.hanauer@aiswcd.org

Isn't June a great time for conservation? The weather is warm to stay, gardens are blooming with Mother's Day flowers, and farmers are in a brief lull between planting and other matters. It's as good a time as any to plan for water quality!

In June, I attended the Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy Roadshows travelling to several districts that will be key to achieving water quality goals. If you have questions about the strategy or want to know how it can help you apply for water quality grants. Thank you to all of the District Employees and Directors that attended these meetings. We hope you found them beneficial and interesting.

I know I enjoyed attending many of those meetings to offer support to districts and answer questions about how the Association can help districts with water quality planning. In the meantime, please feel free to call our office anytime! I've heard from a few districts and I'd like to hear from more about what they're doing to improve their input to the streams.

The Illinois Urban Manual is still undergoing updates. New and updates standards for temporary stream crossings and sediment forebays are currently up for public review and several are right on that door step. If you'd like to get updates, join our email list at www.aiswcd.org/illinois-urban-manual.

Water quality is a team effort and Illinois will not reach its goals without the help of the districts. This is a serious matter that can and will lead to mandates if it is left unmitigated. Let work together to save the world, one watershed at a time!



Matt



Administrative Coordinator Information - Gina Bean

gina.bean@aiswcd.org

Coordinating the Summer Conference has been such a fun experience! I would like to say thank you to everyone that helped plan and put together sessions. Another thank you goes to everyone that will be helping during the conference. We could not do this without all of you!

SURVEYS

Please be sure to fill out the surveys at this year's conference. We made some changes this year based off previous year's surveys. If you do not like those changes we need to know. We also wouldn't mind hearing that some liked those changes as well. We are always willing to improve and the surveys really help with that process.

SELFIE STICK

In case you missed my email yesterday, there will be two selfie sticks at the conference. You can't miss them...they have bright green handles! They are easy to use, just make sure you turn the nobs for positioning and locking the stick into place.

We ask that everyone use the following hashtags when posting photos so that we can easily share with everyone all of the fun and informational experiences we had...

#AISWCD #AISWCDSummerConference2015

REGISTRATION

Registration will be slightly different this year. You will receive your name badge but it will not be coming in an envelope with your program. Programs will be found at the registration table. Please try to limit yourself to one program for the entire conference. We ARE a Conservation group after all.



We will see you all next week!



Save the date!

Hotel Pere Marquette, Peoria, IL
October 27-29, 2015

A Watershed Partnership



ILLINOIS RIVER
CONFERENCE

Discover what's been happ'n
on the river and the land!

Partnerships working towards
improving the Illinois River system

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

<http://ilrdss.sws.uiuc.edu/govconf/>



ISWCDEA CORNER - STEPHEN MILLER

ISWCDEA REGION FOUR REPRESENTATIVE

website: iswcdea.org

We all know that people look to SWCDs for all sorts of information. As an SWCD employees, we need to have knowledge on a wide range of topics to be able to help the customers that come through our doors. One issue that has the potential to affect the majority of our customers is the Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy. Thank you to all the Districts that attended one of the eleven Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy Roadshow Meetings held by the Council on Best Management Practices and the Illinois Farm Bureau in June. These informative meetings described what to expect as the strategy is rolled out in the coming months.

Summer Conference is right around the corner. There will be a variety of great employee training sessions covering topics including unconventional partnerships, CRP mid-contract management, adult education, and more. Staying up-to-date and networking with fellow employees is more important than ever and these training sessions are a good opportunity to do that. Be sure to bring along your checkbook, as well. There will be several fundraisers at Summer Conference, including a live auction and several ISWCDEA raffles. We will be having a gift card raffle, a 50/50 raffle, and we are excited to announce that there will also be a gun raffle this year. This will be a brand new Remington 783 Rifle in .270 caliber, scope, sling, soft case, ear and eye protection, and a cleaning kit. The drawing will be held on July 28. Tickets are available now from your ISWCDEA regional representative. Contact your rep for more information, restrictions, and legal requirements. Tickets for the gun raffle are priced at \$10 each,.

Thank you to everyone who either submitted or encouraged a family member to submit an application for the ISWCDEA scholarship. As usual, all the applications we received were great and we will have a tough time choosing just one winner. This year's scholarship winner will be announced shortly.

As always, feel free to contact your ISWCDEA representatives any time with any comments or concerns. We are always happy to hear from you and we hope to see everyone in Springfield for Summer Conference!

Stephen

Farmers Markets will be starting soon. Did you know the USDA has a site that lets you know where all the farmers markets are located in the country? Find one near you by clicking the link below!

<http://search.ams.usda.gov/farmersmarkets/>





*Association of Illinois Soil and Water
Conservation Districts
Conservation Partnership*

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Perfect gifts for family members!

*For more information visit our website ~OR~ call Kelly Thompson at 217-744-3414
www.aiswcd.org/donate-membership/*

Look who has already joined!

Affiliate Members:

Marc Anderson
Sue Davis
Della and Charles Moen
George and Cathy Hypke
Tom and Judy Beyers

Lifetime Members:

L&J Enterprises
Terry and Cindy Davis

Corporate Members:

Patten Cat

District Members:

Christian County SWCD

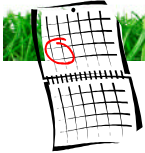
Affiliate Membership Reminder!!!!

Please remember that the money raised through the Conservation Partnership will go towards education activities and the Illinois State Envirothon.

Since Districts pay dues to AISWCD, they are given the discounts at cost at the rate of \$12. This \$12 is given directly to NAC who handles the discounts. AISWCD makes no profit off of a District's \$12. Once a District becomes a member, they will be able to use the discounts for office purposes.

The \$12 fee must be paid yearly to be eligible to receive discounts.

**Please consider joining today and support our Education activities!
Thank you!**



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- **Annual Meeting Wrap Up!**— July 30 and July 31
AISWCD staff will not be in the office. Please email any comments/concerns/questions to the staff and they will respond on the following Monday.
- **Ag Day at the Fair**—August 18, 2015...AISWCD staff will be in attendance.

2014–2015 QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING DATES

- **June 2015 Quarterly Board Meeting** - June 8 and 9, 2015
- **Annual Meeting** - July 27 and July 28, 2015

IL ALL Email

It can not be stressed enough on how important it is for SWCD employees and directors to be on the Illinois All email system. Many important emails come through this system daily. We understand that directors do not want all of the emails and that is why a Director email was set up.

Please, as a courtesy, remember to not “reply all” when responding to emails on IL ALL. This email system has members from AISWCD, SWCDs, Directors, and Partners.

If you are a director please consider signing up for either email.

Please share this information with any new staff or directors that come to your SWCD.

Benefits of IL ALL:

- Emails from ISWCDEA
- Emails from NACD forwarded by Kelly Thompson
- Dues invoices are sent out through this email and you would know when they are expected back to AISWCD.
- Annual Meeting information
- Legislative Day information
- Quarterly Board updates and board packets

Subscribe to IL ALL email:

il.all-subscribe@aiswcd.org

When the email pops up to subscribe, all you have to do is type “subscribe” in the subject or memo line and send. You will receive a confirmation email back from our provider.

To Unsubscribe from IL ALL email:

il.all-unsubscribe@aiswcd.org

Follow the same directions as above but in the subject line type “unsubscribe.”

Subscribe to Director Email: Director-subscribe@aiswcd.org

Unsubscribe to Director Email: Director-unsubscribe@aiswcd.org

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

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