



association of illinois

SOIL & WATER

conservation districts

4285 north walnut street road
springfield, il 62707
(217) 744-3414
fax (217) 744-3420
www.aiswcd.org

August 5, 2015

officers

President
MYRON D. KIRBY
316 Blue Jay Drive
Leroy, IL 61752
(309) 928-9067

Vice President
TOM BEYERS
2438 Ticklen Road
Odin, IL 62870
(618) 267-8900

Secretary
VAN BITNER
30279 E CR 900 N
Mason City, IL 62664
(217) 341-6631

Treasurer
KENNY VOSHOLLER
8341 County Line Road
Cutler, IL 62238
(618) 967-5450

staff

Executive Director
KELLY THOMPSON

Administrative Coordinator
GINA BEAN

Watershed/IUM Coordinator
MATT HANAUER

CREP Resource Specialists
VACANT
Sangamon SWCD

SHERYL PHILLIPS
Peoria SWCD

TIM ROYER
McDonough SWCD

DAN SAHM
Schuyler SWCD

SARAH STILL
Brown SWCD

RICHARD RAPPLEY
LaSalle SWCD

mission

*"to represent and empower
illinois' swcds"*

To: Soil and Water Conservation Districts
From: Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts

RE: Call-to-Action – Communicate with Legislators

AISWCD would like to remind Districts how important it is to continue to reach out to Legislators and inform them of current District events, current legislative and financial needs and future concerns and needs. Please remember to invite your local Legislators to field days, outreach and education events or visit their office on a monthly basis.

Your District can never provide too much information to the legislators. Listed below are a several talking points that you may want to discuss with your legislators during the upcoming months.

- ❖ Importance of Districts keeping their current structure – say NO to Consolidation
 - Many Districts are currently sharing employees, both technical and administrative, over county lines
 - Over 1/3 of the Districts have only one employee
- ❖ Funding is key to survival – include SWCDs in the proposed monthly budget
- ❖ District employee insurance – stress the importance of SWCD employees keeping the CMS-State of Illinois health insurance plan
- ❖ Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy – Districts have been named almost a dozen times in the NLRS document to assist with achieving the 45% reduction of phosphorus and nitrogen by the year 2025.
 - "The 97 local SWCDs throughout Illinois play a key role in fostering locally-led conservation work in rural and urban areas"
 - "The SWCDs are a very important asset in the delivery of IDOA's soil and water conservation programs to rural and urban customers. They also assist the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in the construction of conservation projects through various programs authorized by the U.S. Farm Bill"
- ❖ Also share and invite them to any local field day events or meetings your District is hosting.

As always, should you have questions please contact the AISWCD office.

Best regards,

Kelly Thompson
Executive Director