

# CONSERVATION CATCHALL

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## *AISWCD Staff:*

### **Kelly Thompson**

*Executive Director*

### **Gina Bean**

*Administrative Coordinator*

### **Matthew Hanauer**

*IUM/Watershed Coordinator*

### **Marquitta Thomas**

*Communications Intern*

## *CREP Resource Specialists*

**Brooke Myres**

**Sheryl Philips**

**Richard Rappley**

**Brian Rennecker**

**Timothy Royer**

**Dan Sahn**

## Thank You To All Who Attended 2016 Legislative Day !

### Representatives:

John D. Anthony  
Thomas Bennett  
Terri Bryant  
Tim Butler  
John Cavaletto  
C.D. Davidsmeyer  
Stephanie Kifowit  
Margo McDermid  
Charles Meier  
Bill Mitchell  
Donald Moffitt  
David Reis

### Senators:

Neil Anderson  
Sue Rezin



### Partners/Guests:

- IDOA
- IDNR
- Mike Hoffmann
- Alec Messina
- Trees Forever
- Taylorville Chamber of Commerce
- Miller Media
- CNB
- U of I Extension
- Social Change
- IL Enviro Council
- IL Stewardship Alliance
- ELPC
- Dick Breckenridge

**Districts:** DeWitt, Stephenson, Mason, Tazewell, Hancock, Perry, Champaign, Henry, Jasper, Christian, LaSalle, Macon, Vermilion, Brown, Schuyler, McHenry/Lake, Cumberland, Effingham, Wayne, Bureau, St. Clair, Stark, Rock Island, Morgan, Crawford, Montgomery, Iroquois, Kane/DuPage, Coles, Edgar, and Macoupin

**24 SWCD Employees and 34 SWCD Directors**

## Legislative Day Fun! #LD2016



**Pictured:** Mike Hoffmann & Kenny Vosholler/ Megan Baskerville & Dick Breckenridge/ Sue Davis & Abbie Sperry/ Terina Coffey, Sondra Baker, Lisa Leigh, Tara Hopkins, Dwight Bohlen, and Chris Elliott/ Rep David Reis, Rep C.D. Davidsmeyer, Rep Bill Mitchell, Rep John Cavaletto, IDNR Director Wayne Rosenthal, and AISWCD President Myron Kirby

**Lets Share! Send your Legislative Day pics to : [ga.aiswcd@gmail.com](mailto:ga.aiswcd@gmail.com)**





## ***PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - MYRON KIRBY***

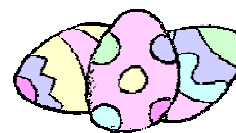
[kirbyfarms@yahoo.com](mailto:kirbyfarms@yahoo.com)

Well... It's been a long winter but Spring is here! Thus far we've had a very busy yet productive start to the month. This month's events included Legislative Day and our Quarterly Board Meetings. During the quarterly board meeting a funding proposal was passed by 75% of the board. It has gained approval from the SWCD Governor's Advisory Board, ISWCDEA, and the SWCD Insurance Committee. At this time it is being forwarded on to IDOA, the Governor's office, and GOMB (Governor's Office of Management and Budget) along with all of the Legislators and our Partners. Although there is no budget yet, we hope the problem is solved soon.

Thanks to all who attended Legislative day. The event was a huge success. Special thanks to Districts who joined us for the day: DeWitt, Stephenson, Mason, Tazewell, Hancock, Perry, Champaign, Henry, Jasper, Christian, LaSalle, Macon, Vermilion, Brown, Schuyler, McHenry/Lake, Cumberland, Effingham, Wayne, Bureau, St. Clair, Stark, Rock Island, Morgan, Crawford, Montgomery, Iroquois, Kane/DuPage, Coles, Edgar, and Macoupin County. Legislative Day was well worth the time and effort you all put in. I would like to also thank the districts who have held a NLRs Roadshow and ones that are scheduled over the next month or two. There are at least 50 roadshows that have been held with either our partners, such as Farm Bureau, or other Districts. Thank you for your participation. I understand without a budget these events can be difficult to manage, however I appreciate your effort and team work.

As always stay in touch with your Legislators and ask them to support SWCDs.

I wish everyone a safe and healthy Spring.



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

-Myron



## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S NOTES - KELLY THOMPSON

Kelly.thompson@aiswcd.org

Educate ... Educate ... Educate ... Educate ... Educate ... Educate  
**FREE WEBINARS!!!**

Illinois Soybean Association *Presents* . . . .



## >> RETHINKING PHOSPHORUS MANAGEMENT

**DON'T BE A BLACK-EYED P:  
HOW TO REDUCE P LOSS  
FROM FIELDS**

TUESDAY 3/15/16  
NOON TO 1 P.M.

**SUSTAINABLE THINKING  
4R PHOSPHORUS**

TUESDAY 3/22/16  
NOON TO 1 P.M.

**FERTILIZER MANAGEMENT  
PRACTICES TO REDUCE THE  
LOSS OF DISSOLVED AND  
SEDIMENT-BOUND P**

TUESDAY 3/29/16  
NOON TO 1 P.M.

**LEARN MORE>>**

For more information: <http://www.ilsoy.org/sustainability/p-symposium>

## Useful 2 Usable *Presents* ...

Useful to Usable (U2U) is offering **FREE ONLINE TOOLS** to help farmers plan.



“We are working together, and with members of the agricultural community, to develop decision support tools, resource materials, and training methods that lead to more effective decision making and the adoption of climate-resilient practices. “

For more information: <https://mygeohub.org/groups/u2u/tools>





## ***IUM/Watershed Coordinator—Matt Hanauer***

[matt.hanauer@aiswcd.org](mailto:matt.hanauer@aiswcd.org)

Happy February! This month began as I arrived back from the NACD annual meeting. I enjoyed my time in Reno! I attended several great lectures on interesting topics led by excellent speakers giving new ideas for water quality education and gathering interest from the community and create great outreach programs. I also met quite a few people that were interested in our Illinois Urban Manual and the condensed field manual. Whether their state had a similar manual and they were interested in our layout and update process or they had recently started an urban manual and they were looking for tips. A couple people mentioned that their state didn't have anything like our manual and that they hoped to use ours as a starting point! Illinois is truly leading the way!

February was devoted mostly to work with the Illinois Urban Manual. Both the Technical Review Committee and Steering Committee met, three standards were approved by IEPA (Sediment Forebay, a new standard; temporary stream crossing, updated from an old standard; and erosion control blanket, also updated from an older standard) and the website was updated, and we planned a Long Term Planning meeting to be held in late March to set our goals for the next grant cycle. The IUM committees also put out a Request for Proposal for a Temporary Sediment Trap Standard and approved the updated Erosion Control Blanket standard.

In March, I will continue to prioritize the upcoming Long Term Planning meeting, taking note of the responses to user and committee surveys, and creating an appropriate agenda based on the findings. I will also be setting deadlines for the standards we are currently working on updating or creating within the Technical Review Committee to create a more streamlined process. Alongside my work with the IUM, I will begin working with districts that have expressed an interest in beginning a watershed group for a potential watershed grant within their region. Moving forward, I hope that this will become a priority for me so that Illinois as a whole can begin moving towards the goals set in the Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy.

To summarize, it's going to be a busy month, but I look forward to improving the IUM and water quality in the critical areas of Illinois! Please let me know if your district would like to begin planning a watershed project. There is grant money to be given from the IEPA as well as from the private sector. Having a watershed group, an energized group of activists, in your district is a great first step. Let's get to work!

***Matt***



## ***ISWCDEA CORNER - STEPHEN MILLER***

***ISWCDEA REGION FOUR REPRESENTATIVE***

[website: iswcdea.org](http://www.iswcdea.org)

The Employee's Association's latest meeting was held in Springfield on Thursday, February 4. We welcomed several new representatives to the ISWCDEA, discussed our 2015 activities, and looked ahead to the full slate of events that we have scheduled for 2016. Lately the ISWCDEA has received a lot of valuable input from employees around the state. Your thoughts, opinions, and ideas matter a great deal, so please continue to share them. The ISWCDEA's next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on May 12. Thank you to everyone who joined us at this year's Legislative Day on March 2<sup>nd</sup>! With today's unusual political climate, it is important for SWCDs and the people we serve to be outspoken. We have a great amount of information that can be shared with our legislators this year. Whether it's at Legislative Day, or through your own initiatives, we encourage you to keep telling the story of SWCDs.

As always, feel free to contact your ISWCDEA representatives any time with any comments, concerns, or questions that you may have. We are always happy to hear from you!

***Stephen Miller***



## ***Administrative Coordinator Information - Gina Bean***

[gina.bean@aiswcd.org](mailto:gina.bean@aiswcd.org)

### **Summer Conference: Thinking Ahead**

*Award applications and forms will be on the AISWCD website no later than March 15th.  
Registration forms will be available online April 1st.*



#### **Exhibit Hall Vendors**

**Form Deadline To AISWCD: July 1, 2016**

#### **Silent and Live Auction Items**

**Form Deadline To AISWCD: July 1, 2016**



#### **Voting Delegates**

**Form Deadline To AISWCD:  
July 1, 2016**

#### **Resolutions**

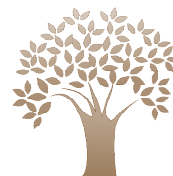
**Deadline To Tom Beyers or AISWCD:  
June 1, 2016**



## **AWARDS**

#### **Outstanding Forestry Contribution**

**Deadline To Apply To AISWCD: May 15, 2016**



#### **Conservation Farm Family**

**Deadline To Apply To Land Use Council : May 15, 2016  
Deadline To Apply To AISWCD: June 1, 2016**

#### **Conservation Teacher of the Year (Grades K-8 and 9-12)**

**Deadline To Apply To AISWCD: May 15, 2016**



#### **Director Service Award**

**Deadline To Apply To AISWCD: June 1, 2016  
Deadline for Photo of Director to AISWCD: June 1, 2016**

#### **George McKibben Scholarship**

**Deadline To Apply To AISWCD: May 15, 2016**



#### **ISWCDEA Scholarship**

**Deadline To Apply To Joe Bybee: June 30, 2016**



#### **Auxiliary Poster and Photo Contest**

**Deadline To Apply To AISWCD: May 15, 2016**



# SAVE THE DATE !

## NLRS Roadshow Dates for March, 2016:

### Montgomery County SWCD

**Date:** 3/15/2016  
**Time:** 2:00 pm  
**Location:** Lincoln Community College Litchfield  
1 Lincoln Land Dr. Litchfield ,IL

If your District is hosting an upcoming NLRS Roadshow, please contact me with the details so I can share.



### Would you like to Volunteer?

Contact Sondra Baker before April 11, 2016



<http://www.unwater.org/worldwaterday>

*Marquitta Thomas*

[ga.aiswcd@gmail.com](mailto:ga.aiswcd@gmail.com)



# ILLINOIS RIVERWATCH NETWORK

NATIONAL GREAT RIVERS RESEARCH AND EDUCATION CENTER

## Water Quality Data Empowers Conservation, Part One: Data Type

*By Matthew Young, Illinois RiverWatch Coordinator*

Water quality monitoring is happening right now in your county, and the data is freely available to researchers, resource managers, and laymen alike. But what type of data is available? Can it be trusted? Water quality assessment is instrumental for many conservation projects, including prioritizing strategic waterbodies for watershed scale restoration, evaluating baseline conditions before new conservation practices are implemented, and reporting on conservation project results and effects. However, assessing water quality can be an expensive and time consuming process for which adequate resources are unavailable. It is often more efficient to mine other projects for needed water quality data before starting a new monitoring program. This article is part one of a three part series outlining the best ways to mine available water quality data.

The phrase “water quality” is an often used term that can describe a myriad of attributes for our water resources. The specific conservation project will determine the type of water quality data needed. There are four main types of water quality data: 1). Biological, 2). Nutrient, 3). Toxins, and 4). Stream Alteration. Biological data like fish, aquatic invertebrate, and bacterial communities indicate overall stream health and if it is safe for primary contact. Nutrient indicators like nitrogen, phosphorous, ammonia, and algal growth can be used to measure aquatic life health and “fertilization”. Toxins like mercury, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB’s), chlorine, and pesticides can be detrimental to fish and drinking water consumption. Stream alteration like abnormal flow, altered shoreline, siltation, and temperature elevation can be detrimental to aquatic life and the aesthetic quality of the water body.

*-Matthew Young*



Visit [www.nrcs.usda.gov/clientgateway](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/clientgateway) and your local Soil and Water Conservation District to learn more and open your account.

INTRODUCING  
CONSERVATION DELIVERY STREAMLINING INITIATIVE  
**CLIENT GATEWAY**  
CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE IS JUST A CLICK AWAY

USDA NRCS United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service

National Association of Conservation Districts conserving natural resources for our future

association of Illinois SOIL & WATER conservation districts





## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

**\*The Executive Director, Kelly Thompson, has access to email when she is not in the office. Please be sure to email her if something comes up and the AISWCD office is closed.**

**[Kelly.thompson@aiswcd.org](mailto:Kelly.thompson@aiswcd.org)**

**March 13th: Daylight Savings: Don't forget to set your clock ahead one hour !**

**March 25th: Good Friday: AISWCD Office Open**

**March 27th: Easter Sunday**

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## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:Director-subscribe@aiswcd.org)

**Unsubscribe to Director Email:** [Director-unsubscribe@aiswcd.org](mailto:Director-unsubscribe@aiswcd.org)

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

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