

New Director Training

Illinois Soil and Water Conservation District Directors

What is a Soil and Water Conservation District

- Governmental body
- Created by State law
- Purpose of promoting the protection and conservation of soil, water and related resources

SWCDs formed . . .

- Outgrowth of a difficult period in our Nation's History
- Depression and the Dust Storms of the 1930's



Father of Soil Conservation

- Hugh Hammond Bennett
- Named Director of Soil Erosion Service in 1930's
- Flair of showmanship & commitment to soil conservation
- Master of written and spoken word in the cause of conservation
 - <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/about/history/speeches>



In the beginning . . .

- 1936 – USDA issued “A Standard State Soil Conservation Districts Law”
 - Informed states on acceptable laws from USDA for further assistance from the SCS
- Modified Standard Act was passed into law on July 9, 1937 to suit Illinois



SWCDs Areas of Concern

concerns vary from one county to another

Reduction of soil erosion & sedimentation & nutrient losses

- Protection of water quality from urban & agricultural sources of pollution
- Flood control in urban and rural areas
- Urban land use & development
- Land Use Planning
- Farmland conversion



SWCDs Areas of Concern

concerns vary from one county to another

- Enhancement of woodland, wildlife and recreational resources
- Ground water resources
 - Quantity and quality of groundwater
- Mined land reclamation
 - Surface mining
 - Oil brine damage
 - Underground mine subsidence



NRCS Photo Gallery

Activities of SWCDs

Responsible for promoting conservation of the soil, water and related natural resources, so they:

- Work cooperatively with other groups
- Increase awareness of resources
- Provide solutions to problems
- Educate the public
- Show the better way of managing these resources



Activities of SWCDs

To accomplish their mission, Directors decide what programs & activities will have greatest impact in their county

- Programs include, but not limited to:
 - Hold field demonstrations (tillage, cover crops, etc.)
 - Conduct tours and workshops on Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy (NLRs), Soil Health, Cover Crops, Conservation Tillage, etc.



Activities of SWCDs

- Programs include, but not limited to:
 - Providing technical assistance to landowners
 - Development of conservation plans
 - Design & construction of conservation practices
 - Carry out Partners For Conservation cost share program (PFC)
 - Conduct T Transect Survey
 - Provide rental equipment
 - Displays at fairs and workshops



THURSDAY, MARCH 24TH AG DRAINAGE MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

9:30am to 12:30pm @ KENDALL TOWNSHIP HALL
(9925 State Route 47, Yorkville)

Kendall County Corn Growers and Kendall County Soil & Water Conservation District invite you to our 2nd Ag Drainage Workshop. The workshop will be an opportunity to learn how local, state and federal regulations interact with floodplains, wetlands and drainage activities on the farm. Topics will address activities ranging from tile maintenance and installation to removing sediment from creeks/ditches. Also, hear an update on local drainage districts.

VENDOR EXPO Local Drainage & Tile Contractors

FREE LUNCH
Provided by:
KENDALL COUNTY
CORN GROWERS
Sponsored by:
VENDORS

SPEAKERS
U.S. Army Corps of
Engineers,
USDA - NRCS,
IL Dept. of Natural
Resources,
Kendall County,
KC Farm Bureau

REGISTRATION
BY MARCH 22nd to:
Megan @ KCSWCD:
(630)653-5457 X100

SPONSORED BY:
KENDALL COUNTY
CORN GROWERS
KENDALL COUNTY
SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION
DISTRICT



Activities of SWCDs

- Programs include, but not limited to:
 - Conservation Contests
 - Hosting local & state Envirothon competitions
 - Educational activities with various groups
 - Printing of newsletters, new releases, brochures, etc.
 - Presentations to various groups
 - Host websites and promote conservation on social media
 - Sales of conservation related items including trees, fish, seed etc.



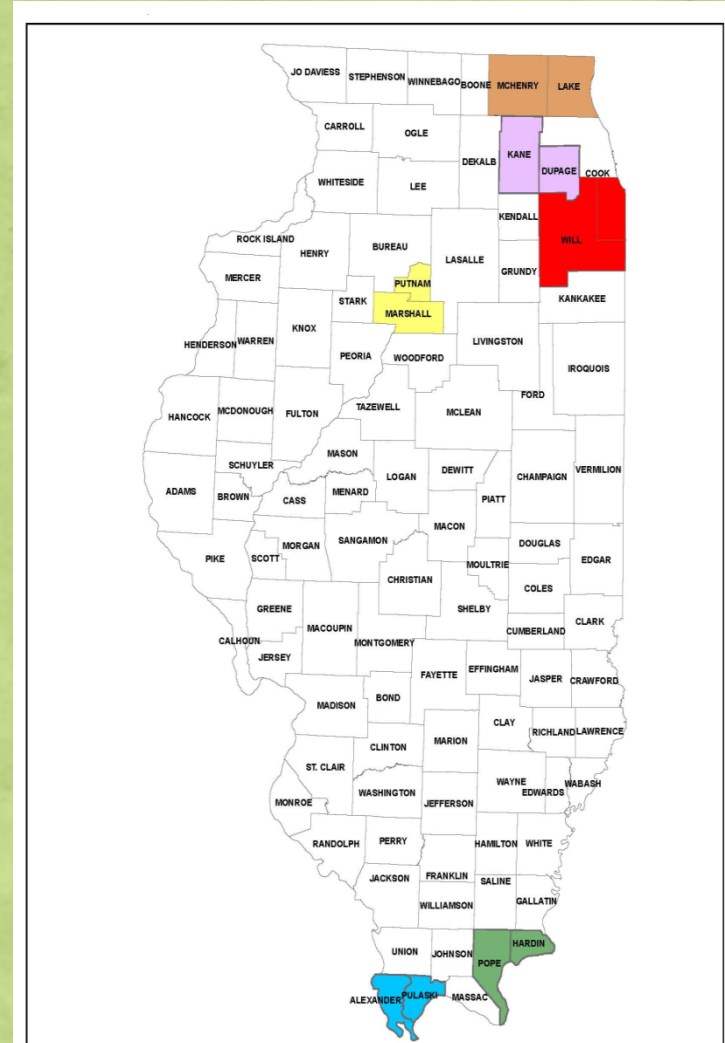
Activities of SWCDs

- Programs include, but not limited to:
 - Preparation of Natural Resource Information (NRI) Reports under Section 22.02a of SWCD Act
 - Conduct soil erosion and sediment control inspections
 - Hold storm water and SESC workshops
 - Provide input into the development of local farmland protection programs
 - Develop computer generated GIS based maps

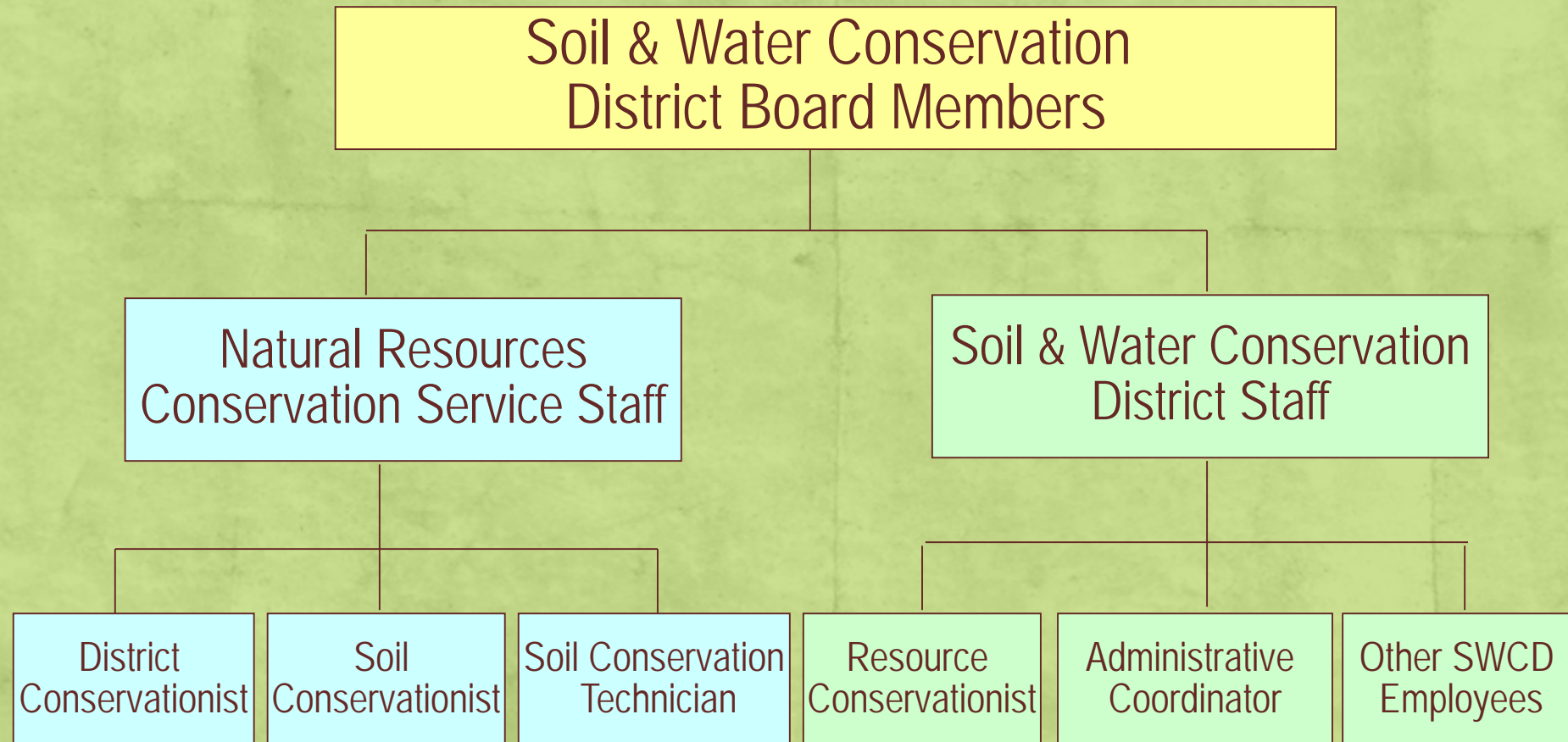


Number of SWCDs and their Boundaries

- 97 Illinois SWCDs
- SWCDs comprised of 2 counties
 - Kane-DuPage
 - Marshall-Putnam
 - Pope-Hardin
 - Pulaski-Alexander
 - Will-South Cook
 - McHenry-Lake
- (North Cook Co. is a SWCD in itself)



SWCD Flow Chart



SWCD Directors

- Qualifications
 - Must be owner/occupier of land in district boundaries
 - Must be of legal voting age
- Length of Term
 - Serve a two-year term – no term limits
- Travel Expenses & Compensation
 - \$20/day for SWCD meetings
 - Reimbursed for travel expenses
 - Begins first Monday of March



First meeting after elections

- 5 Elected board members
 - 2 elected on odd calendar years, 3 on even
- Elect officers from among themselves
 - Chairperson
 - Vice Chairperson
 - Secretary*
 - Treasurer*

*One person can serve as Secretary/Treasurer

- Associate Members may be appointed

SWCD Director Responsibilities

- You are an elected public official
- Carry out programs of soil & water conservation for the district within:
 - Authority given through the District Act
 - Other statutory requirements that govern elected public officials
 - Open Meetings Act, Freedom of Information Act and more
 - May have authorities written in local ordinances
 - May have intergovernmental agreements



SWCD Employees

- Section 21 of SWCD Act empowers you to employ
- Employees in each office
 - Administrative Coordinator (AC)
 - Performs financial and administrative work, etc
 - Resource Conservationist (RC)
 - Assigned to do technical, administrative and educational work, etc
 - Other
 - Executive Directors
 - Technicians
 - Education Coordinators
 - Contractors



SWCD Employees

No matter what title, if employee is paid by SWCD keep the following in mind

- SWCD employees are the SWCD Board's employees
- May assist or receive training, guidance and technical supervision from NRCS or other agencies
- The Board is their employer



NRCS Employees

- Carry out USDA Farm Bill Conservation programs locally
- Field Office Staff
 - District Conservationist (DC) - Over see multi county groups
 - Soil Conservationist (Soil Con) – Carry out similar responsibilities under supervision of DC in each District
 - Soil Conservation Technician – Responsible for survey and design work on farmland



Sources of SWCD Funding

- 3 principle sources of funding
 - State of Illinois through IL Dept. of Agriculture
 - Local county board
 - NRCS contribution agreements
- Other sources may include:
 - Watershed programs
 - Real estate
- Sale of conservation related items
 - Trees, fish, seed, other



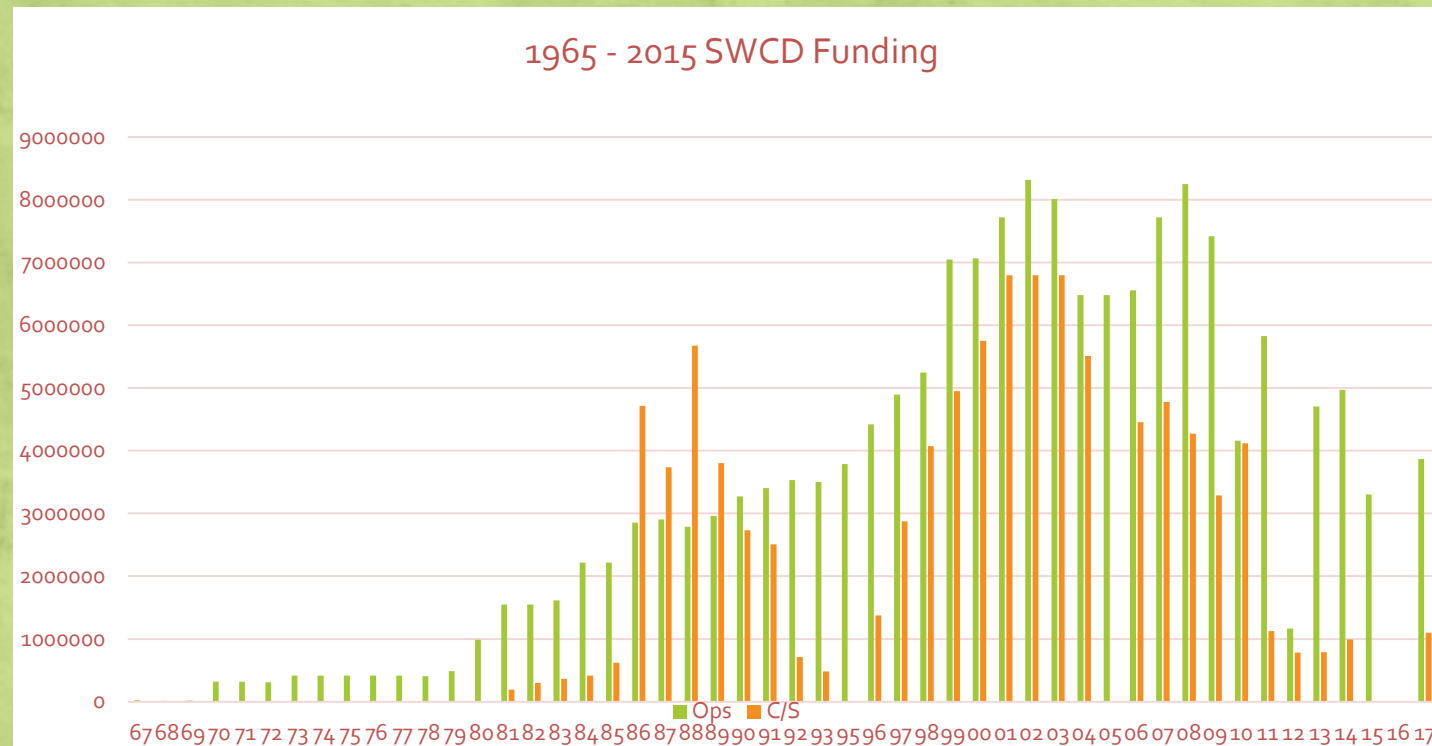
Sources of SWCD Funding

- Grants from special interest groups, government, foundations, etc.
- Rental of equipment
- Interest and dividends
- Borrowing money
- Service Fees
 - NRI's
 - SE/SC Inspections

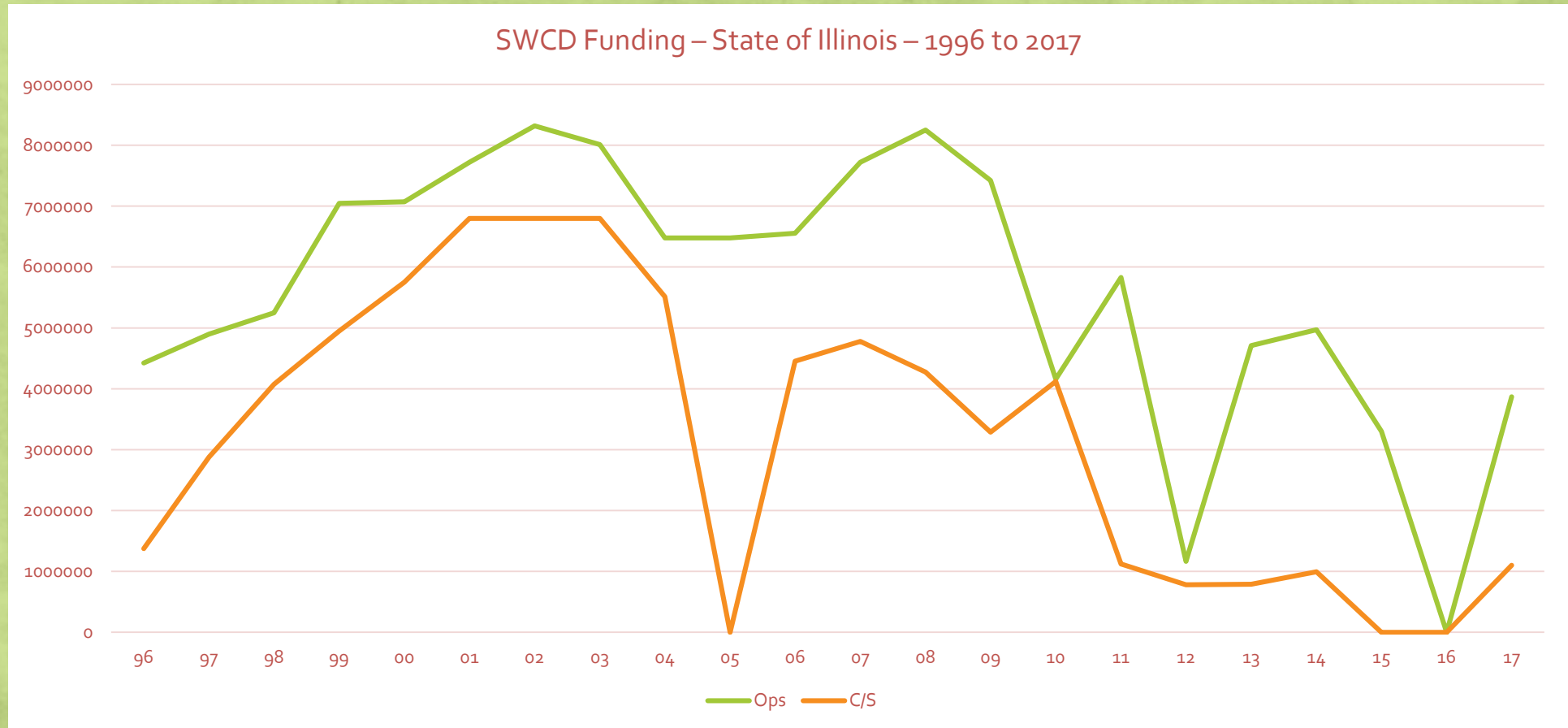


State of Illinois past funding

TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS TO ILLINOIS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS



SWCD Funding trend



Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA)

- Bureau of Land & Water Resources (BLWR)
 - Office of Natural Resource Management
 - Office of Farmland Protection and Mined Land Reclamation



Illinois
Department of
Agriculture

State Fairgrounds

PO Box 19281

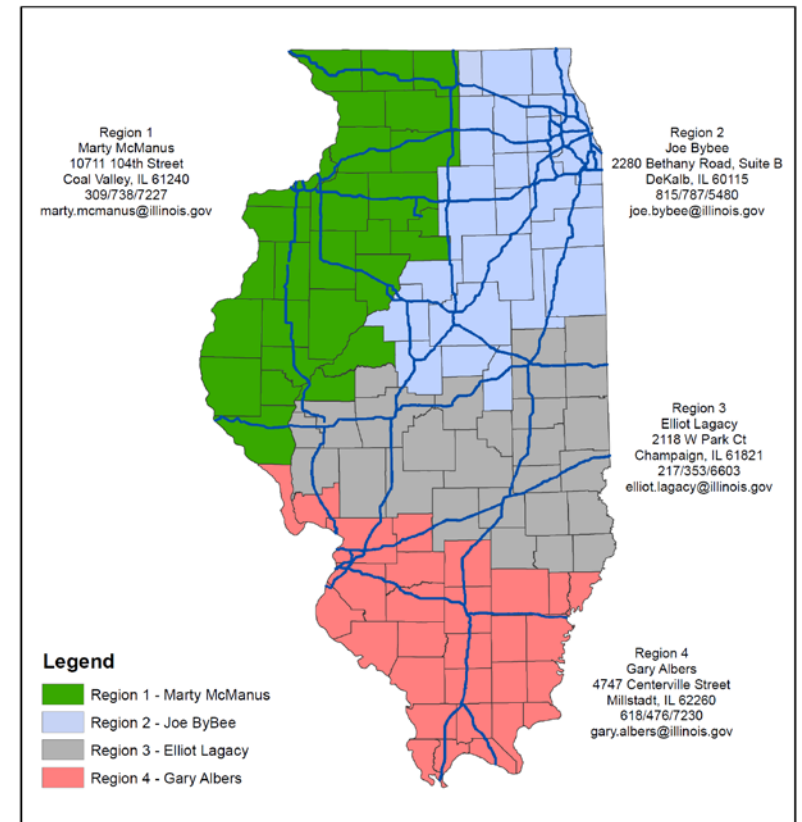
Springfield, IL 62794-9281

<http://www.agr.state.il.us>

Bureau of Land and Water Resources

- Bureau Chief – Steve Chard
- Regional Representatives assist with:
 - Director & Employee training
 - Administration of state funded programs
 - Program Development
- Farmland protection
- Mined land reclamation

BLWR Regional Rep Areas



BLWR- Programs

- Partners For Conservation Program
 - Nutrient Management
 - Conservation Practices Program (CPP)
 - Streambank Stabilization & Restoration
 - Sustainable Agriculture Program
 - Illinois Water Well Abandonment Program



BLWR

- Coordinates with AISWCD to develop annual budget for SWCD operations and program
- Transect Survey
- Resource conservation promotional activities
- Research
- Educational activities
- Workshops, Winter Training, Summer Conference
- Director & employee development and training programs



AISWCD

The Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts was organized for, and operates on behalf of, the State's 97 Soil and Water Conservation Districts



4285 N. Walnut Street Rd. * Springfield, IL 62707

Phone: 217/744-3414 Fax: 217/744-3420

www.aiswcd.org

AISWCD Activities

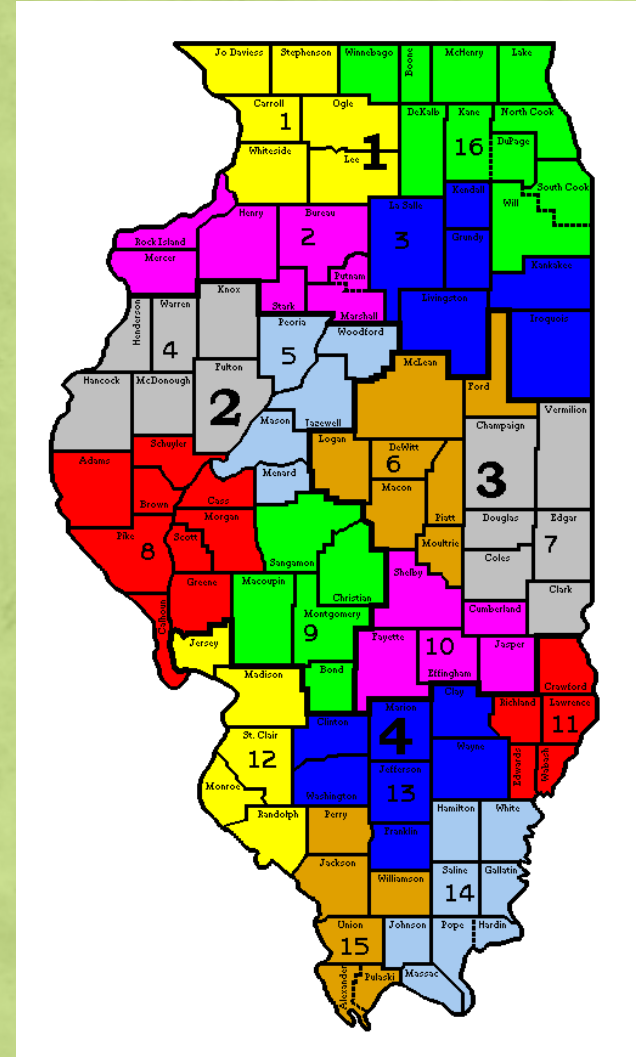
- Lobbies for funds
- Tracks legislation affecting SWCDs
- Provides testimony on legislative issues
- Through 16 land use councils (LUC) coordinate SWCD activities related to policy & legislation
- Envirothon
- Illinois Urban Manual

To represent and empower the SWCDs.



AISWCD Land Use Ccouncil MAP

- Roles of LUC Board Members
 - Give direction to AISWCD from LUC
 - Vote on issues at Board Meetings
 - Serve on committees
 - Report AISWCD matters to LUC



Illinois Soil & Water Conservation District Employees Association

- ISWCDEA
- Organized for, and operates on behalf of, the employees of all SWCDs
- <http://iswcdea.org>



Assistance Available



- At SWCD request, have assistance from:
 - Federal agencies
 - State agencies
 - Private organizations
 - individuals
- USA Service Center Partners:
 - USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
 - USDA Farm Service Agency



USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

The Natural Resources Conservation Service provides leadership in a partnership effort to help people conserve, maintain, and improve our natural resources and environment.

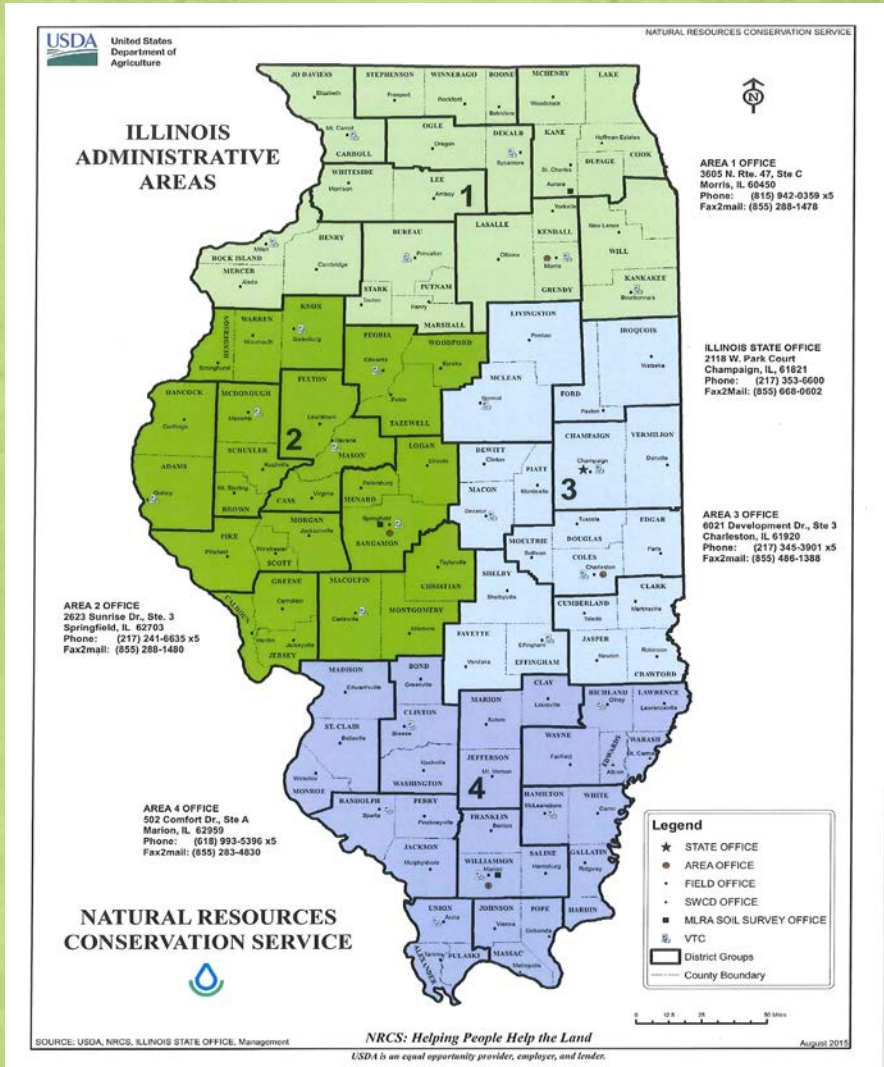
2118 W. Park Court, Champaign, IL 61821
Phone: 217.353.6600 Fax: 217.353.6676

<http://www.il.nrcs.usda.gov/>



NRCS

- Field office staff
 - Serve county
- District groups
 - Serve multi county
- Area Office
 - Specialists serving field offices
- State Office
 - Over sees statewide programs



USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

- EQIP
- CRP
- WRP
- CSP
- FRPP
- Digital Soil Survey
- Field Office Technical Guide
- Engineering oversight

USDA Farm Services Agency (FSA)

Stabilizing farm income, helping farmers conserve land and water resources, providing credit to new or disadvantaged farmers and ranchers, and helping farm operations recover from the effects of disaster are the missions of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency (FSA).

Illinois State Office

3500 Wabash Ave.

Springfield, IL 62711

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/il/>



USDA Farm Services Agency (FSA)

- Administers program to provide financial assistance for construction/implementation of conservation practices
 - Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)
- Staff at county level
 - County Executive Director (CED)
 - Clerical Staff
 - Board is the County Committee

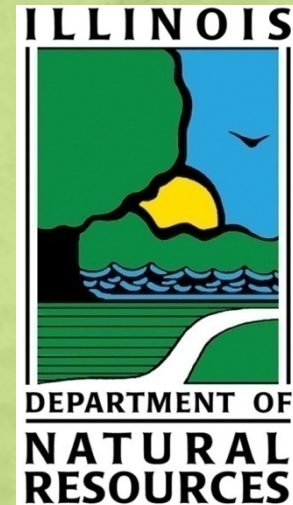
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA)

- <http://www.epa.state.il.us/>
- NLRS leader with IDOA
- Administers Federal 319 Water Quality Grant Program
- TMDL Watershed Program
- Assist SWCDs with programs and initiatives dealing with water quality
- Urban Soil Erosion and Sediment Control



Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR)

- <http://dnr.state.il.us>
- Program areas they provide assistance with
 - Fisheries
 - Wildlife
 - Forestry
 - Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)



Illinois State Comptroller

- <http://www.ioc.state.il.us/>
- Provides training and assistance in completing Comptroller's Annual Financial Report
- Issues checks to SWCDs from state source funds

Illinois Attorney General

- <http://www.ag.state.il.us/>
- Represents SWCDs
- Provides advice and opinions on legal matters
- Can represent SWCDs in certain legal issues



ILLINOIS ATTORNEY GENERAL

Lisa Madigan

www.IllinoisAttorneyGeneral.gov

Directors are much more than volunteers

- Important public service position
- You are a locally elected governmental official
- Not different from
 - County Boards
 - City Council
 - School Board Members
- Subject to standards, conduct and ethics as any other elected official

Further Support and Information

- Contact your Regional Representative
- BLWR in Springfield



Revised by MM February 2015

Some photos courtesy of NRCS Photo Gallery