



SOUTHWESTERN ILLINOIS RESOURCE CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT

DAVE EUSTIS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



EDUCATION

Associate of Science in Horticulture,
State University of New York—
Morrisville, 1981

Certificate of Non-Profit Management,
College of Urban Planning & Public
Affairs—Great Cities Institute University
of Illinois at Chicago, 2009

AFFILIATIONS

Kaskaskia Watershed Association
Secretary—Treasurer;
2004—Present

Vital Lands Illinois
Strategic Working Group 2011

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Mr. Eustis currently serves as the Executive Director for Southwestern Illinois Resource Conservation & Development (SWIRCD), where he began working as the Operations Manager in 2001. During his tenure, the organization has experienced significant growth, maturing from an all-volunteer Board of Directors to staffed professional positions, refined program areas, and a more comprehensive approach to funding both operations and programs. Under his leadership the organization has successfully protected over 5,000 acres of open space, and invested nearly \$20 million on the conservation of the region's environmental resources. In addition, strategic partnerships, (local, regional and state-wide), have been forged that are capable of leveraging the financial, technical and human resources necessary to lead environmental conservation in southwestern Illinois well into the future.

Prior to his of service in the non-profit industry, he served in a number of positions with a national retailer of lawn and garden supplies, Frank's Nursery & Crafts, Detroit, MI. Positions included store management, assistant buyer, buyer and product manager. Mr. Eustis also worked as a certified arborist (Connecticut) following graduation from the State University of New York at Morrisville with a degree in Horticulture.

PROJECTS

- **Kaskaskia Watershed Association** – In 2002, SWIRCD developed a comprehensive plan for this watershed. Following completion of the report (Kaskaskia River Watershed; An Ecosystem Approach to Issues and Opportunities, 2004), the organization began providing administration support to the Kaskaskia Watershed Association (KWA). This support has led to a number of successful initiatives and recognitions within the watershed, including being awarded the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, being included within the 2007 Water Resources Development Act, leading a basin-wide water supply planning initiative, and being recognized by the US Army Corps of Engineers as “a concrete example of how partnerships can enhance integrated water resources efforts at the local level”. Since 2004 Mr. Eustis has served as the Secretary Treasurer for the KWA.
- **Land Conservation** – In 2003 SWIRCD was awarded funds to develop operational capacity in land conservation. As a result of this effort the organization has successfully acquired fee simple ownership in a number of highly-visible and highly significantly ecological sites within the region. In addition, nearly 1,000 acres of lands have been protected through conservation easements. Finally, SWIRCD is also actively assisting communities in developing and adopting local policies/ordinances that will assist in protecting prime farmland, riparian corridors, and other threatened ecosystems.



DAVE EUSTIS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

PROJECTS

- **Environmental Planning** – Matching the analysis capabilities of a geographic information system (GIS) with innovative planning tools, over the past decade SWIRCD has emerged as the regional leader in environmental planning. A comprehensive GIS data library, inclusive of public local, state and national data layers, as well as resource layers that have been developed in-house, allow staff to display science-based data in a manner that is understandable with the respective audience. Resource plans are developed at a multitude of scales, including site, watershed, corridor, community, county and regional. Beyond planning, staff also works to implement demonstrative projects, as well as to produce high-quality educational materials directed towards a variety of audiences.

Projects:

East St. Louis Lead Remediation
Chouteau Island Master Plan
Bond County Timber Bridge Construction
Illinois Rural Water Districts Utility Mapping
Building a Healthy Future for the Residents of St. Clair County
Clinton County Animal Waste Best Management Practices
Kaskaskia River Land Registry Project
Winter Feeding Stations Best Management Practice
Monroe County Karst Mapping
Hole in the Doughnut Land Conservation Project
Kaskaskia Tree Seedling Project
Southwestern Illinois Lands at Risk
Kaskaskia River Water Quality Databank
Kaskaskia River Hypoxia Analysis
Southern Illinois Urban Forestry
Southwestern Illinois Resource Planning
Kaskaskia Basin Water Supply Plan
American Bottom Ecosystem Partnership
Kaskaskia River Silver Creek Ecosystem Partnership
Kaskaskia River Shoal Creek Ecosystem Partnership

- **Middle Mississippi River Partnership** - SWIRCD was approached in 2002 to assist this unique partnership in a strategic planning process. As the administrator of this effort, Mr. Eustis was responsible to raise the necessary funds and recruit the staff required to complete the initiative. As a result of the successful completion of this effort, (Middle Mississippi River Partnership Coordination Plan, 2005), the organization has been awarded nearly \$250,000 from private foundations to continue providing additional administrative support to the MMRP. Also, an additional \$650,000 was provided to the MMRP for continued planning efforts (2006 – 2008), and collectively the MMRP has permanently protected 6,500 acres, while restoring 600 acres of wetlands and reforesting 2,500 acres.