



April 18, 2011

RE: Federal Appropriations – Resource Conservation & Development Program

On April 14th, 2011, both the US House of Representatives and Senate passed legislation, which in part terminated funding for the Resource Conservation & Development program. Funding for this program, which originated under the Kennedy administration nearly fifty years ago, provided technical assistance to regional nonprofit Resource Conservation & Development Councils. There are a total of 375 Councils authorized by Congress across the nation.

Southwestern Illinois Resource Conservation & Development received its authorization as a Resource Conservation & Development Council in 1989. It subsequently achieved nonprofit status in 1991. Since that time the organization has implemented over 350 individual projects, protected 4,750 acres of open space, and invested over \$17,000,000 in conservation within southwestern Illinois.

Southwestern Illinois Resource Conservation & Development will continue to operate as a nonprofit corporation, utilizing the same mission and vision statements that it has been operating under for the past several years. Work will remain focused on the organization's two program areas, the "Conservation of Open Space", and "Fostering Livable & Sustainable Communities".

Ed Weilbacher, USDA NRCS RC&D Coordinator, who has provided technical support to the organization for the past twenty-one years, has been reassigned by NRCS. The organization is eternally grateful to the exceptional efforts and visioning brought forth by Ed, and wishes him well in his future efforts within NRCS. Ed can be reached directly at: 618-978-1836 or ed.weilbacher@il.usda.gov.

On behalf of the organization's Board of Directors and staff we would like to thank all of our partners, sponsors and volunteers for the tremendous support that you've provided over the past twenty-one years. We look forward to building upon this energy in our effort to create a more sustainable region in which to live, work and play.

Jon McLean

Jonathan McLean
Chairman

Dave Eustis

David Eustis
Executive Director