



### **“Southwestern Illinois Resource Conservation & Development will Continue to Operate as a Nonprofit Despite the Federal Government Ending Program”**

On April 14th, 2011, both the US House of Representatives and the Senate passed legislation, which in part terminated funding to the Resource Conservation & Development program. Authorization and funding for this program, which originated under the Kennedy administration nearly fifty years ago, provided technical assistance to regional nonprofit Resource Conservation & Development Councils.

Southwestern Illinois Resource Conservation & Development received its authorization as a Resource Conservation & Development Council in 1991 and achieved nonprofit status in 1989. Since that time, the organization has implemented over 375 individual projects, protected 4,750 acres of open space, and invested over \$17 Million in conservation within southwestern Illinois.

“Southwestern Illinois Resource Conservation & Development will continue to operate as a nonprofit corporation, utilizing the same mission and vision 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**”, Dave Eustis, Executive Director.

With change comes opportunity. Being associated with an unwieldy federal program was somewhat confusing for both members and partners, and at times has limited the organization from fully blossoming. We look forward to addressing these issues in the upcoming months, and re-branding a more resourceful and effective organization that will be capable of continuing to lead environmental conservation in southwestern Illinois.

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-two 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.