

AISWCD Resolution 2010 – 1

Educate Land Owners to the Threat of Garlic Mustard and Eradication of the Plant

Whereas, diverse woodlands are an important sustainable natural resource in Illinois,

Whereas, diverse woodlands provide valuable habitat for a variety of mammals, birds, insects, and reptiles plus income and recreation for the public,

Whereas, Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria Petiolata*) an introduced invasive plant has become a serious threat to woodland diversity,

Therefore, be it resolved that the AISWCD work with IDNR, USDA, other government agencies, and land owner groups to educate land owners to the threat of Garlic Mustard and eradication of the plant.

Approved by: Whiteside County SWCD Board – May 5, 2010

Not Approved by: Land Use Council #1 – May 20, 2010

Approved by: AISWCD Board – June 8, 2010

AISWCD Resolution 2010 – 2

Establish IL Envirothon Scholarship Program

WHEREAS, Canon Envirothon (international competition) offers college scholarships to members of the winning teams at the international level.

WHEREAS, Land Use Council #1 Envirothon has established a scholarship program for members of the winning team at the LUC level. This has cost the participating SWCDs \$0 as all of the money for the program is raised through sponsorships with outside organizations.

WHEREAS, it is important to promote the further education of individuals who understand and care about the environment.

THEREFORE, be it resolved the AISWCD shall pursue establishing a scholarship program for members of the winning teams at the Illinois Envirothon. This may include soliciting sponsorships for the scholarship program.

Approved by: Land Use Council #1 - May 20, 2010

Approved by: AISWCD Board – June 8, 2010

AISWCD Resolution 2010 – 3

Conservation Action Network - "Conservation to the Power of 10"

Whereas, there is a crisis looming in Illinois and there doesn't seem to be an effective, collective voice sounding off about it.

Whereas, the infrastructure supporting conservation, already weakened by past state budget problems, could be on the verge of collapse.

Whereas, Soil and Water Conservation Districts are threatened by another round of significant cuts and we really don't know what to expect.

Whereas, a task force created by Senate House Joint Resolution 107 has created the possible need for future legislative contacts.

Whereas, IDNR District Foresters, Wildlife Biologists, Heritage Biologists, Fisheries Biologists providing expertise in the management of natural resources of private and public lands have diminished for a number of years.

Whereas, Extension funding has been reduced and their programs could go away or be severely reduced.

Whereas, collectively, the loss or further decline of the resource professionals included above represents a big blow to Illinois – loss of service to landowners, outreach to communities, environmental education program leadership, and perhaps most profoundly, the impact on the landscape and the economy of our region.

Whereas, when programs are threatened year after year, vague pleas for letter writing have become less successful.

Be it therefore resolved that the AISWCD create a locally-led movement in support of conservation interests and natural resources in Illinois as follows:

1. Each SWCD identifies and contacts TEN people who will ACT on behalf of the cause of conservation. They don't have to join an organization or pay dues or come to meetings. They just need to be willing to make a call or send a letter, fax or e-mail when an urgent issue arises. AISWCD and their local district will help them with a sample that they can personalize and coach them through. The name, address, telephone number and if possible an email address will be forwarded to AISWCD who will create a database similar to the current legislative contact database

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2. The strategy is this – when a legislator or government official gets two or three calls, they know something is up. If they get 10, there's a fire somewhere. This movement is designed to start a four-alarm blaze – 980 potential contacts on a single issue over the course of a week - just from within the boundaries of the SWCDs.
3. The simple messages created by the AISWCD will be distributed to the districts and to this conservation action network. An example would be "I'm concerned about [funding for Soil & Water Conservation Districts.] [personal reason(s) why]. [Please support X bill or full funding], or just make sure we get to keep [our SWCD staff] and the programs that they bring to our county." If that's all they say, it's better than no contact at all.
4. SWCDS will make contacts with their own network to ensure action has been taken.
5. First on the agenda – a letter to Governor Quinn supporting full funding of SWCDs.
6. All subsequent requests will be SMART ideas – Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Results-Oriented, and Timely

Approved by: Land Use Council #13 - March 18, 2010

Approved by: AISWCD Board – June 8, 2010

AISWCD Resolution 2010 – 4

Establish an Illinois SWCD Standardized E-mail Address

WHEREAS, today most SWCD employees have a standardized e-mail address (firstname.lastname@il.nacdnet.net) through NACD as long as they are on the USDA network.

WHEREAS, USDA is forcing SWCDs to pay a substantial fee to use the USDA network, causing SWCD to buy computers that will not be able to access the USDA network, therefore SWCD will not be able to access their NACD standardized e-mail address.

WHEREAS, it makes it easier for business, landowners, and SWCDs to use a standardized e-mail address for all SWCD employees in Illinois instead of 200 different e-mail suffixes.

THEREFORE, be it resolved the AISWCD shall pursue establishing a domain name for all SWCDs to use as their standardized email address accessible on a non-USDA network computer.

Approved by: Land Use Council #4 – March 24, 2010

Withdrawn: AISWCD Board – June 8, 2010