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Illinois' advocate for clean water and healthy rivers.



Prairie Rivers Network E-News

June 14, 2013

## **ACTION ALERT**

**Calls are needed to the House of Representatives on **MONDAY, JUNE 17** AND **TUESDAY, JUNE 18** to support wetlands protection!**

Please contact your representative ([contact info found here](#)) and ask him/her to support the Thompson-Fortenberry Crop Insurance Accountability Act. This bill requires farmers to preserve wetlands and reduce soil erosion in exchange for receiving subsidies for crop insurance. [This is called conservation compliance, and it is a proven way to reduce water pollution and habitat destruction.](#)

This bill will have a huge impact of protecting wetlands and preventing erosion in Illinois and throughout the country! Prairie Rivers Network has been active on this issue for a long time, but **now it's really important that your representatives hear directly from YOU. Let's achieve a victory by calling today!**

Find your representative's contact info by clicking [here](#).

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### **Governor Quinn: Separation is the "Ultimate Solution" to Asian Carp Problem**

His [statement](#) marks a huge step forward for protecting the Great Lakes from invasive Asian Carp and revitalizing the Chicago River system.

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### **IEPA Reissues Industry Mine Permit Despite Egregious Violations**

*Agency refuses to exercise its powers to deny permit*

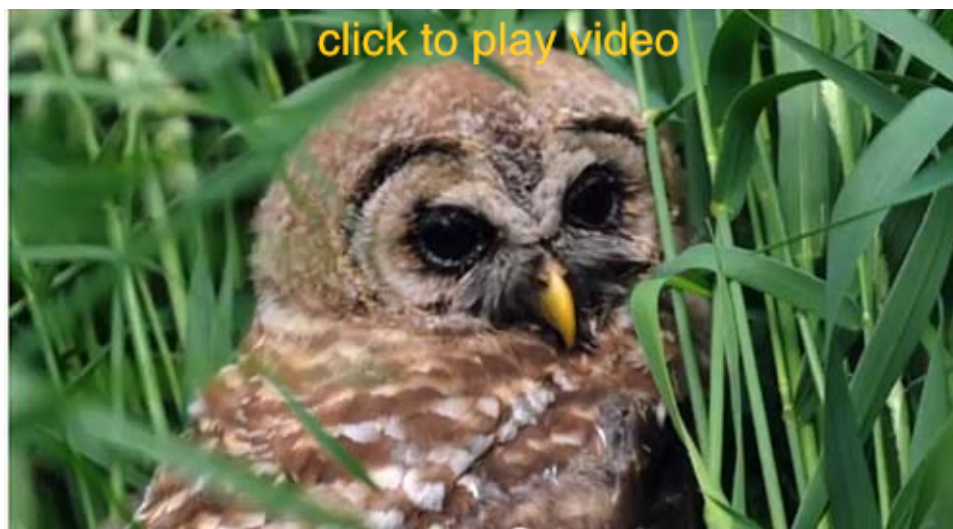
Prairie Rivers Network and the Illinois Attorney General have sued Springfield Coal Company for hundreds of water pollution violations at the Industry Mine. Despite a ruling by the Illinois Pollution Control Board finding more than 600 violations since 2004, the Illinois EPA has issued yet another permit to Springfield Coal. While we work to make the company [pay the full price of its violations](#) and clean up the mine site, Prairie Rivers Network is also [challenging the new permit](#).

Listen to the [Tri-States Public Radio program](#) on the Industry Mine fiasco. Read about it in the [Illinois Times](#).

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## BioBlitz!

On June 1, we headed out to the Mississippi River to attend the Milan Bottoms BioBlitz, hosted by the [Riverbend Wildland Trust](#). For those wondering, a BioBlitz is an intense biological survey that attempts to document all living things in a given area. Over a 24-hour period, experts and citizen scientists identified 740 species! Watch the BioBlitz video by clicking the photo below:



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## Will there be Enough for the Saline and Copper Slough?

*Urbana Champaign Sanitary District Determined to Sell Water*

That's the question we want the Urbana Champaign Sanitary District to consult with scientific experts on [before selling water to Cronus Chemical](#). Although the District has promised us they'll leave enough water in the streams, we want experts to say how much is enough. We also want the public to have a [right to enforce](#) this promise by allowing a third party to enforce minimum stream discharge commitments.

**If you care about the Saline and the Copper Slough, especially if you are a ratepayer, please help by contacting the UCSD Board of Trustees.**

The Board of Trustees is likely to make its decision on Monday, June 17th. Please contact them to say you support expert consultation and third party enforcement.

- Jerry Lyke [jlyke@u-csd.com](mailto:jlyke@u-csd.com)
- Diana Lenik [dlenik@u-csd.com](mailto:dlenik@u-csd.com)

- Jenny Putman [jenny-p@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jenny-p@sbcglobal.net)

Read more background on this story on our [website](#).

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## Large Factory Farm in Sensitive Karst Region Approved by IDOA

Prairie Rivers Network has been working with Adams County residents who oppose construction of a large 5,000 hog farm in a sensitive karst area. Groundwater and aquifers in karst regions are particularly prone to water pollution due to the porous nature of karst geology and soils. The Illinois Department of Agriculture recently [approved the construction](#) of this hog farm, so neighbors and Prairie Rivers Network are evaluating next steps and legal options, including reform of the Livestock Management Facilities Act.

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## Upcoming River-Related Events

- Krannert Outside on [June 14](#) and [July 12](#) in Champaign (Prairie Rivers Network is the Community Partner)
- [Rain Barrel Sale and Rain Garden Talk](#) on June 22 in Tremont
- [A River Gathering](#) in Rockford

[Visit the Prairie Rivers Network calendar for more events.](#)

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## Prairie Rivers Network In the News

- [Murdock Mine owner seeks to renew reclamation permit](#) (News Gazette, May 25, 2013)
  - [Medication disposal to be available in Champaign-Urbana](#) (News Gazette, May 22, 2013)
  - ['Women Caring for the Land' planned in Princeton](#) (Bureau County Republican, June 7, 2013)
  - [Illinois approves Adams County hog farm](#) (Tri-States Public Radio, June 11, 2013)
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## June is National Rivers Month!

**Celebrate our rivers by joining a clean-up or starting your own.**

Here are some resources on the [American Rivers website](#).



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