

**RESOURCE CONSERVATIONIST II**  
**Rock Island County Soil & Water Conservation District**  
**JOB ANNOUNCEMENT**

Date Opened: 3/5/21  
Open Until: 3/19/21  
Employment Type: Full-Time  
Location: Milan, IL

**Overview**

Rock Island County Soil & Water Conservation District (RISWCD) is seeking a full-time Resource Conservationist II. This is an entry-level training position with the ability to work into the Resource Conservationist position over a 2-year period. Training includes field work and technical assistance apprentice training involving surveys, designs, conservation plans, grant project management as well as NRCS systems training including Conservation Planner and Conservation Desktop. The successful candidate will earn the NRCS Certified Conservation Planner certificate during the 2-year training period. Training will be approximately 60% of this position. This position will also be coordinating the USDA Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contribution agreements and assisting with miscellaneous office management including the S.T.A.R. program, staff/Board meetings, website updates, newsletter articles, drill rental, and conservation sales and events in collaboration with other RISWCD staff. Work direction is provided by the RISWCD Board with day-to-day supervision provided by Resource Conservationist.

The Resource Conservationist II position requires interdisciplinary skills, a team-oriented disposition, and demonstrated capacity to develop and maintain positive professional relationships with a diverse population. The successful candidate will have the ability to excel as a leader in a fast-paced work environment and should be self-motivated and organized, with strong oral and written communication skills. Willingness to learn and comfortable working one-on-one with farmers and landowners is required.

This is conservation planning work, which involves a basic knowledge of soil and water conservation principles, practices and methods related to the planning and installation of soil and water conservation projects and systems. Work will be conducted in a combination of sedentary office work and hands-on field work. The ability to have consistent professional interactions with colleagues, partners, RISWCD Board and members of the public is required.

Field work is done in conjunction with the agricultural landowner or operator. This position assists the district in the preparation and implementation of soil conservation and best management practices. Duties require attention to detail and administrative experience; knowledge of marketing and public relations strategies, and project management. Duties may require the candidate to work outdoors in inclement weather, lift heavy objects of approximately 50 pounds, and walk over rough terrain.

**Hours & Work Environment**

This is a full-time position (40 hours/5-day per week schedule). Office hours are Monday – Friday, 8:00 am – 4:30 pm. Additionally, this position is required to prepare for and attend evening Board meetings that occur once per month (typically the first Tuesday of the month). In addition to regular meeting attendance, the employee will be required to assist with and attend special events or meetings on evenings or weekends. Limited overnight travel may be required.

Rock Island SWCD is located in an open-office building with federal agencies. The District works in partnership with NRCS and the selected candidate must pass a federal background check.

## **Minimum Qualifications**

Education: Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university or equivalent work experience\*\* in agriculture, agricultural engineering, biology, geography, environmental, ecology or related natural resources is preferred. Excellent general computing skills including Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and an ability to learn new software programs is required. Familiarity with Geographic Information Systems (GIS) is preferred.

\*\*Candidates with significant formal planning, engineering, or program administration experience in a soil conservation, water quality protection or related agricultural or natural resource program, in lieu of formal education are encouraged to apply.

Experience: preferred. Evidence of team collaboration abilities and 1 year of experience preferred.

Licenses/Certifications:

1. Motor vehicle operator's license valid in the State of Illinois and good driving record.

## **Salary & Benefits**

Salary is commensurate with education and experience. Position: hourly range \$15 - \$18 / hour. Benefit package includes paid sick and vacation leave, paid federal holidays, insurance package, Simple IRA plan with 3% match, and cell-phone stipend. Possible bonus structure based on performance.

Employee must comply with all District policies and procedures.

Rock Island County SWCD is an Equal Opportunity Employer. All qualified applicants and candidates for employment will be considered without regard to race, age, color, religion, national origin, political or union affiliation, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, status as a protected veteran, or status as a qualified individual with disability. Physical or mental disabilities will be considered only as they may relate to the potential employee's ability to perform the job requirements.

## **To Apply**

All applications should be submitted electronically at: [info@rockislandswcd.org](mailto:info@rockislandswcd.org), Subject: RESOURCE CONSERVATIONIST II POSITION and must be received by 3/19/21 @ 4:30 PM CST.

Please email your interest and attachment(s) with the following: (1) a cover letter describing why you are interested in the position, (2) a professional resume, (3) college transcript and/or sufficient information to demonstrate you meet the qualifications for the position.

For questions concerning this position or application process, please contact: Dawn Temple at 309-581-3001 or [info@rockislandswcd.org](mailto:info@rockislandswcd.org).