

CONSENT CALENDAR

Correspondence

**SUPERVISOR
KEVIN JEFFRIES
RIVERSIDE
COUNTY
DISTRICT #1**



Jeffries Journal

Volume 5, Issue 5

May 2017

Kevin's Corner

Changing of The Guard

I've previously written about how our two senior members of the Board of Supervisors, John Tavaglione and Marion Ashley, plan to retire at the end of next year. While writing this update, we are all still waiting for Governor Brown to appoint a new replacement Supervisor for the eastern part of the county (Supervisor Benoit passed away this past December, and state law gives the Governor the sole authority to make the appointment). Now, on top of all those changes, our appointed County CEO, Jay Orr, has also announced that he will be retiring this summer. With his retirement (and a rumored few other senior staff positions as yet unannounced), combined with the changing of three elected Board members - your county is going to undergo (for better or worse) some significant policy, political, and leadership changes. Some of you will counsel me that big changes have been long overdue, while others will counsel to keep a steady course. Riverside County is the 4th largest county in the state and the 10th largest in the nation. Our budget and services are severely strained (understatement), many of our roads and freeways are at or above maximum capacity, and our largest export to nearby counties is workers (commuters). I think it is safe to say that we need a little bit of bold thinking about our future direction.

Firefighting & Fees

As Riverside County prepares for a potentially ugly fire season, you may know that your county fire department, and many local city fire departments (excluding Corona, Murrieta & Riverside to name a few) are managed and staffed by CAL FIRE Firefighters (state employees). Between county fire stations and contract city fire stations, the unified (state/county/cities) fire department operates nearly 100 fire stations all across our county. The professional services provided by our state employees is second to none. The contracting entities pay for the actual costs to have our fire stations staffed (typically 3 firefighters 7 days a week) by the state. The cooperative contract enjoys the benefit of having access to state staffed wildland fire engines, firefighting helicopters, air tankers and inmate fire crews.

One downside to this contract arrangement is that the state also levies an "Admin Fee" on top of the actual costs to serve the county and cities. That fee has now reached roughly \$22 million a year! With our ongoing county budget crisis (caused in part by unfunded and underfunded state mandates), just a portion of that \$22 million could make a big difference for some county services that are otherwise likely to be slashed.

In addition to the growing Admin Fee, the State Legislature also imposed (roughly 5 years ago) a "State Responsibility Area" (SRA) Fee/Tax that runs roughly \$150 per home for those who reside in many rural areas. To add insult to injury - the SRA fire fee can NOT be used to fund firefighters to actually fight fires in our communities, but only for fire prevention activities. While local homeowners have been paying this tax for years now, only a very, very small portion of those tax dollars have been reinvested and spent back in Riverside County for actual fire prevention efforts. This month, Supervisor Tavaglione and I will be meeting with the State Director of CAL FIRE to convey the absolute need for Sacramento CAL FIRE to cooperate with our county and local cities and make sure that your tax dollars are being put to work here locally and not being deposited into a black hole in Sacramento.

As always, your comments and suggestions are welcome. And yes, I do actually read and often reply to them (except the really offensive nasty-grams).

Respectfully,
Kevin Jeffries

Inside this issue:

County Boards & Commissions	2
Supervisor Success Stories	3
Local District #1 Events	4
Cheech Marin in Riverside	5
Non-Profit Spotlight	6
District #1 Profile	6
Upcoming District Events	7
Upcoming District Events	8

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County Boards and Commissions Appointee Profile

Each month, the Jeffries Journal highlights some of the Supervisor's nearly 100 appointees on Boards and Commissions in the county, to provide an insight into the kind of service opportunities that exist, and the people who have chosen to serve.

Carl "Bruce" Shaffer **Planning Commissioner** **County of Riverside, District #1**



What does your commission do?

Thank you for the opportunity to serve First District residents, businesses, and stakeholders as the newly appointed Planning Commissioner.

My career is hallmarked by being accountable, transparent, and committed to conducting thoughtful measured recommendations. Planning Commissioners have the civic responsibility to implement Riverside County's planning and development policies and regulations. Planning Commissioners must consider private property rights, land use compatibility, public amenities, infrastructure, as well as, sustaining healthy human and natural environments for future generations.

What interested you in serving on the commission?

Remaining actively present, responsive, and relevant during my term as First District's Planning Commissioner is my pledge. My desire to serve is ground with ten years of local private land development experience, over twenty years of regional and international government experience in areas of community planning, federal land management, resource conservation, and public private partnership. My educational background and certifications with American Institute of Certified Planners, as well as, my certification as a mediator with the National Conflict Resolution Center and Southern California Federal Executive Board has kept me active as a neutral facilitator.



Supervisor Success Stories



Each month this column highlights recent successes in Supervisor Jeffries' Office, whether it is assistance for a single citizen dealing with the county bureaucracy, a change in county policy to improve our community, or a promise kept by the Supervisor.

More Paving Completed In District #1

Recently our TLMA Department finished paving the second segment of Hunter Road in Mead Valley. The first segment was completed in 2016 and many residents anxiously awaited the second half of the paving to be completed this year.

Several residents called to say "thank you" for completing the project. With the road now paved, they will be able to access their homes without having to dodge holes, mud and risk getting stuck midway down the road.

A big "thank you" goes out to our County crew which made this possible for our residents!



Hunter Road, all paved!



Resident Emails District #1 For Assistance

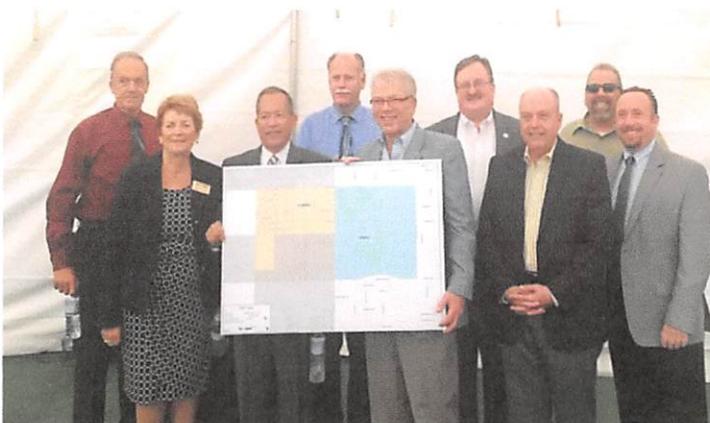
Utilizing one of many methods to contact our office for assistance, a resident of District #1 recently emailed us from our website to request assistance in dealing with Riverside County Code Enforcement. The resident had received a citation for not cleaning up their property. They were attempting to clean up the property but they needed a permit from Building and Safety to complete the process. They could not obtain the permit because they had a code violation on the property.



After contacting our office, the resident met with a staff member at the Riverside downtown location who was able to connect them with a Code Official who quickly resolved the violation on the property. The following day, the resident was able to connect with our Building and Safety Department to obtain their much needed permit and will now be able to begin cleaning up the property.

Office staff attended the Tamale Festival at Riverside's White Park on April 22, 2017. As an attendee of the Festival over the years, we have seen attendance grow significantly as well as the vendors and exhibitors present.

As usual, this year the event was well attended by thousands from all over the country who enjoyed music, food and fun for the entire family. If you missed the Festival this year, don't worry it'll be back in 2018!



(left) Supervisor Jeffries spoke at the County Water switch over with Elsinore Valley Water District and Eastern Municipal Water District celebration.

The switch-over should affect approximately 140 homes located off of Bundy Canyon in the Wildomar area, guaranteeing the safe, clean water they had previously lived without.

(right) The Warm Springs CAC met recently at the Lakeland Village Community Center to hear Riverside County Transportation Director Patty Romo speak about the proposed El Toro/ Ethanac Corridor from the I-15 freeway to the I-215.

Supervisor Kevin Jeffries was in attendance and spoke briefly to the residents as well. The meeting was well attended by local residents.



Proposed Cheech Marin Center for Chicano Art, Culture, & Industry

A press conference was held on May 2, 2017, at the Riverside Downtown Library with The City of Riverside in collaboration with the Riverside Art Museum (RAM) and well-known Chicano entertainer Cheech Marin. It was announced they are working on a formal agreement to create a Museum of Chicano Art at the Historic Downtown Riverside Library.

Mr. Marin started his collection of Chicano Art in the 1980's, and to date has accumulated over 700 works of art. His vast collection includes paintings, prints, mixed-media works, and sculptures. Mr. Marin's objective is to shed light to the fact that "Chicano Art is American Art"! This passion inspired him to publicly feature works from his collection for others to view and cherish. Mr. Marin was seeking to house his works of art locally which is what lead to this partnership with the City of Riverside and the Riverside Art Museum.

The proposed location for the Cheech Marin Center for Chicano Art, Culture, and Industry, is the building that currently houses Riverside's Main Library, which is moving to a new location downtown. The Riverside City Council will vote on the transformation of the center at its May 16th, 2017, council meeting.



City of Riverside Council members and Cheech Marin at the May 2nd announcement of the new Cheech Marin Center for Chicano Art.



Non-Profit Spotlight

STUDIO 395

Since 2011, STUDIO 395 has successfully managed art and culture related programming focused on education and creation while pursuing their mission of finding work for local artists and developing a venue that would be home to an artists' community. In 2016, the organization saw a couple of opportunities for that via a licensing agreement with the City of Lake Elsinore for an 1 ½ acre parcel of property on Main St. and then with the County of Riverside for the Lakeland Village Community Center.

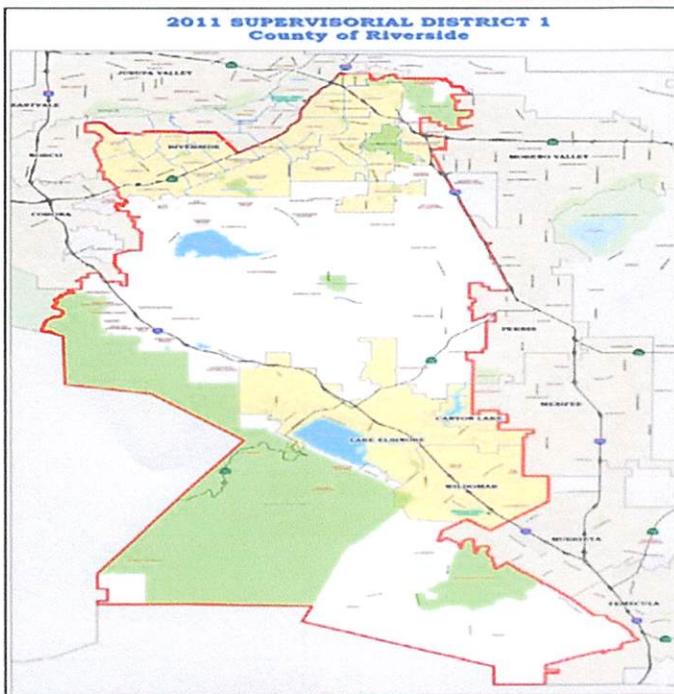


Taking over the Community Center in January 2016, the amount and variety of classes has increased. Currently there is a schedule of various art and recreation related offerings such as Zumba, Tai Chi, Creative Writing, Ceramics, Tae Kwando, College Prep Classes, Etiquette and Modeling.

Coming soon, there will be Theatre, Yoga, a Maker's Series, Sewing, Fine Arts, Ballet Folklorico and more. A visual and performing arts summer camp for kids is in the works for late July. In addition, the group is working with another non-profit, It's Bigger Than Sports, to rehab the sports fields at the facility so youth and adult sports can be offered. There has also been discussion with a local woman's roller derby league to bring a playing facility to the property.

Some class offerings have been free to the community as the group worked through grant funding they received from the National Endowment for the Arts for 2016-2017. Call the facility, at 951-471-4407, or visit us online at www.studio395.org for specifics of current classes or to be put on an interest list of upcoming classes.

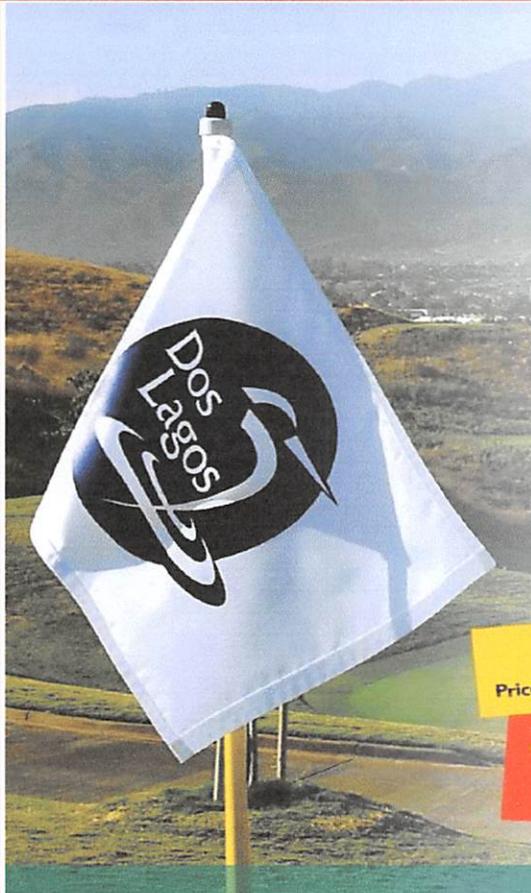
STUDIO 395 is a non-profit artist cooperative with a mission of taking art into the community by engaging the underserved resident of the area and finding opportunities for local artists to create, display, sell and instruct.



First District Profile

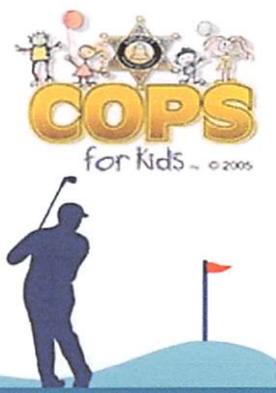


Kevin Jeffries was elected in November 2012 to represent the residents of the 1st Supervisorial District on the Riverside County Board of Supervisors. This district covers the cities of Riverside, Lake Elsinore, Canyon Lake, and Wildomar, and unincorporated communities including Woodcrest, Lake Mathews, Mead Valley, Temescal Valley, Good Hope, Lakeland Village, El Cariso, Meadowbrook, La Cresta, Tenaja, DeLuz and Spring Hills.



Cops For Kids CELEBRITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

Friday, May 5th 2017
This event is tax deductible!



Check in begins at 7 a.m. Shotgun Start at 8 a.m.

Come play with some of your favorite retired NFL players!

Dos Lagos Golf Course
4507 Cabot Dr. Corona, CA 92883

**Foursome Sponsor \$500
Individuals \$125**
Prices include the all-day events listed.

Register online at:
copsforkidsinc.org/events.html
or
contact Dave Fontneau @ 951.245.3389
to reserve your spot by phone.

**18 Holes of Golf
Mulligans
Raffle & Great Prizes
Foursome Photo
Santa Maria
BBQ Lunch at 1 p.m.**

2016 CONTEST WINNER

ENTER TO WIN \$10,000 WATERWISE LANDSCAPE MAKEOVER

ANNUAL WATER USAGE 50% Turf/50% Waterwise Landscape
250,000 gallons
All Turf Landscape
400,000 gallons

ANNUAL SAVINGS 38% Based on 2,100 square feet of landscaping on a residential property with well-functioning irrigation system free of leaks.
Source: Riverside Public Utilities

DRAWING SATURDAY, MAY 13, 2017 OUTSIDE CITY HALL

SPONSORS
KEN B. CRIVEL
Landscape Contractor • Project Manager

TICKETS ARE \$20 EACH, 5 FOR \$50, 10 FOR \$75, OR 15 FOR \$100

TICKET REQUEST FORM
Upon receipt of your pre-paid ticket request, KRCCB will fill out your ticket(s) with the ticket holder's information and deposit your ticket(s) in the drawing box. Your ticket stub(s) will be mailed to the address provided.

MAIL OR FAX THIS FORM TO KRCCB
Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce
3183 University Ave. • Riverside, CA 92501
Phone 951.663.7100 • Fax 951.663.2670
OR VISIT WWW.KRCCB.COM

Ticket Holder's Name: _____ Date: _____
Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____ Email: _____

\$ _____ Enclosed for: _____ Ticket(s) Please make checks payable to: GRCC/KRCCB
Pay by Credit Card: MC Visa Discover American Express Name on Card: _____
CC #: _____ Exp. Date: _____ Signature: _____

Proceeds from this event will fund beautification projects and promote environmental awareness among our youth.

WINNER NEED NOT BE PRESENT • MUST BE A HOMEOWNER IN THE CITY OF RIVERSIDE

Keep Riverside Clean and Beautiful is a community program sponsored by the City of Riverside's Public Works Department and the Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce

EMD Emergency Management Department
Riverside County Operational Area COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

RIVERSIDE COUNTY CERT COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

HOME ABOUT CERT CERT PROGRAMS NEWS & EVENTS REGISTRATION RESOURCES CERT in Español TEEN CERT CONTACT US

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE
IN YOUR COMMUNITY
GET PREPARED **TODAY!**



What is CERT?
The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations.

Using the training learned in the classroom and during exercises, CERT members can assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following an event when professional responders are not immediately available to help.

CERT members also are encouraged to support emergency response agencies by taking a more active role in emergency preparedness projects in their community.

"DOING THE GREATEST GOOD, FOR THE GREATEST NUMBER, IN THE SHORTEST AMOUNT OF TIME"

REGISTER TODAY!
To register for County or City sponsored CERT Classes or to get more information about classes in your area call (951) 955-4700 Mon - Thurs 8 am - 5:00pm or register on the [REGISTRATION](#) page

County of Riverside Emergency Management Department 4210 Riverwalk Pkwy Suite 300 Riverside, CA 92505 (951) 955-4700 Copyright © 2015

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 Tell Friend



National Association of
Conservation Districts

The NACD Urban and Community Resource Policy Group (RPG) is pleased to have partnered with The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company in offering monthly NACD Urban and Community webinars since September 2012. These popular webinars have covered a variety of urban and community conservation topics with districts sharing their projects and programs and other entities sharing information and resources. They are held 12noon-1pm Eastern time on the third Thursday of each month. You can view a full list of the past webinars on the [NACD website](#). The site also provides links to the presentations PDFs and webinar recordings.

The RPG is now seeking your input for the series beginning in October 2017. Help us design webinars that help you! Please take a moment to:

1. Offer to give a presentation; send in a brief paragraph describing the program/project that you would like to showcase, and/or
2. Tell us the urban and community conservation topics/issues and/or speakers you would like to have covered.

Send your proposals and topic/speaker ideas to [Deb Bogar](#) by June 30, 2017.

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California Special
Districts Association
Districts Stronger Together

GENERAL MANAGER LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

Save \$50 - Register On or Before May 26

"The GM Summit was outstanding! The sessions were professionally presented and all of them delivered what was promised."

- Charlie Helms, CEO/Harbormaster, Crescent City Harbor District

Register

Don't miss out on your opportunity to participate in the best special district education at [CSDA's General Manager Leadership Summit](#) June 25-27 in Newport Beach. Save \$50 on your registration fees when you register on or before Friday, May 26.

In addition to two keynote speakers: Keni Thomas "Get It On! What It Means to Lead the Way" and Michael Grabow "360 Communication Starts with You" attendees will be able to choose from a variety of breakout session topics to fit their needs.

Check out the [GM Leadership Summit website](#) for the full schedule of events or register online now. You can also view and download the conference brochure [here](#).

Need help paying for this conference? The [Special District Leadership Foundation](#) has scholarship funds available that may be used towards registration fees for the General Manager Leadership Summit. Questions regarding scholarships can be directed to bethh@sdlf.org. **IMPORTANT** - The next scholarship deadline is May 15, 2017.

[California Special Districts Association](#) | 1112 I Street | Suite 200 | Sacramento, CA 95814



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Rancho Water

May 5, 2017

Temecula-Elsinore-Anza-Murrieta Resource Conservation District
PO Box 2078
Temecula, CA 92593

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Director of Finance/Treasurer

Jason A. Martin
Director of Administration

Andrew L. Webster, P.E.
Chief Engineer

Kelli E. Garcia
District Secretary

James B. Gilpin
Best Best & Krieger LLP
General Counsel

Re: ASSESSOR'S PARCEL NO. 951-150-001 - 5.43 ACRES
ASSESSOR'S PARCEL NO. 931-370-006 - 4.86 ACRES

Dear Sir or Madam:

Pursuant to Government Code section 54222, the purpose of this letter is to provide you notice that Rancho California Water District has declared the following properties as surplus: APN No. 951-150-001 and APN No. 931-370-006 (Surplus Property). The District's governing board identified and declared the District's intent to dispose of the Surplus Property at its January 12, 2017 meeting. Qualifying public agencies/entities interested in purchasing one or more of the properties must notify the District, in writing, no later than **July 6, 2017**.

Notifications should be sent to:

Richard Aragon, CPFO
Director of Finance/Treasurer
Rancho California Water District
P.O. Box 9017
Temecula, CA 92589-9017

Under Government Code section 54222; your agency has sixty (60) days from the date of receipt of this notice to respond. Further information about these properties may be obtained at the District. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned at (951) 296-6935.

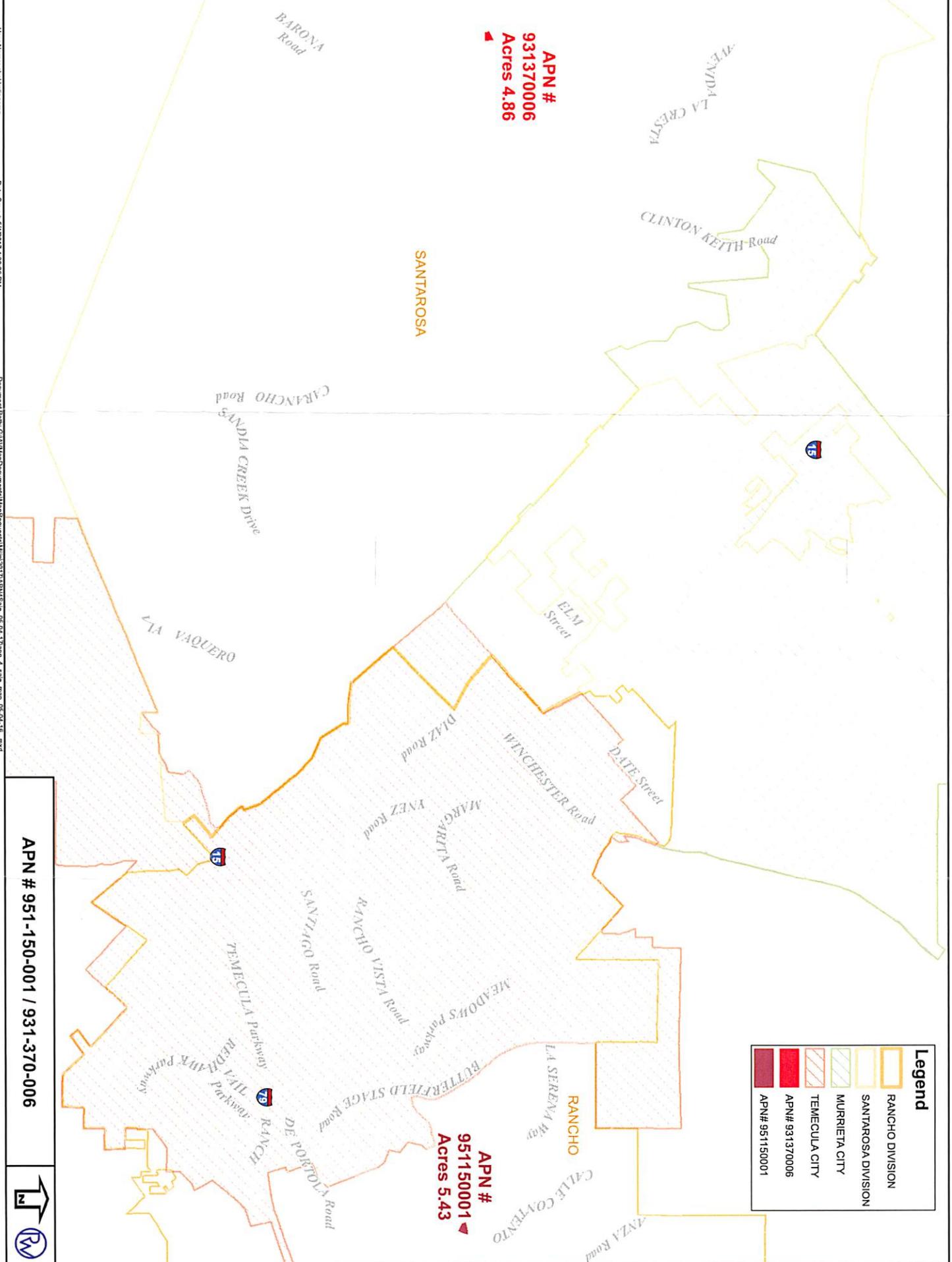
Sincerely,

RANCHO CALIFORNIA WATER DISTRICT

Richard Aragon, CPFO
Director of Finance/Treasurer

Legend

	RANCHO DIVISION
	SANTAROSA DIVISION
	MURRIETA CITY
	TEMECULA CITY
	APN# 931370006
	APN# 951150001



APN #
931370006
Acres 4.86

SANTAROSA

APN #
951150001
Acres 5.43

APN # 951-150-001 / 931-370-006



CONSENT CALENDAR

General Information

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Conservation Clip List is a weekly collection of articles distributed by NACD that provides our members and partners with the latest news in what's driving conservation. If you have a relevant submission, please contact your [NACD Communications Team](#).

[Inspectors find most PA farms, while not all in compliance, are trying](#) via Bay Journal

Pennsylvania farmers are finding themselves under increased scrutiny as the state and many county conservation districts have ramped up their efforts to check whether farms have required manure management and sediment control plans.

[Ag funding pulls through](#) via Williston Herald

A federal spending bill for the remainder of 2017 is in, and it is without virtually any of the agriculture spending cuts President Donald Trump had envisioned, whether in his request for cuts to discretionary 2017 spending, or his budget proposal for fiscal year 2018.

[Farmers Call Mayday: Blizzard Flattens Winter Wheat; Rains Drown Corn, Soybean Fields](#) via DTN/The Progressive Farmer

A wintry storm system dumped up to two feet of snow on parts of the Great Plains, flattening a winter wheat crop that was maturing weeks ahead of normal. Meanwhile in the Midwest and Midsouth, relentless rains swelled rivers and flooded freshly planted corn and soybean fields.

[Want Healthier Soil? Link it to Crop Insurance](#) via Civil Eats

Most farmers know that the health of their soil is important, but they don't all prioritize it over, say, maximizing what they grow each year. Now, some scientists are looking into ways to ensure that more farmers—especially those producing commodity crops in the middle of the country—start taking soil seriously.

[Scientists say agriculture is good for honey bees](#) via Phys.org

While recent media reports have condemned a commonly used agricultural pesticide as detrimental to honey bee health, scientists have found that the overall health of honey bee hives actually improves in the presence of agricultural production.

[U.S. drought reaches record low as rain reigns](#) via USA Today

Drought in the U.S. fell to a record low this week, with just 6.1% of the lower 48 states currently experiencing such dry conditions. That's the lowest percentage in the 17-year history of the weekly U.S. Drought Monitor report.

[Farms' thirst for water roils Wisconsin's central sands](#) via ABC News

As the number of wells grows, Wisconsin finds itself in an unexpected fight. Despite being bordered on three sides by Lake Superior, Lake Michigan, and the Mississippi River and cross-hatched with innumerable rivers, streams, and lakes, the state no longer can take water for granted.

[US wildfire risk is above average for southwest. Florida](#) via The Seattle Times

Wildfires this summer are expected to be most severe in southwestern U.S. states, Florida, Georgia and in some parts of California and Nevada. Heavy winter snow and spring rains that flooded many Western states will probably delay the onset of this season's worst wildfires.

[Nebraska to Grow 125M Milkweed Stems to Save Butterflies](#) via U.S. News and World Report

The state of Nebraska has made a goal to keep monarch butterflies and other pollinators off the federal endangered species list by planting 125 million milkweed plants by 2020 and providing incentives for farmers to incorporate pollinator habitat into their land.

[EPA, Clean Energy Spared Trump's Ax in \\$1.1 Trillion Budget Deal](#) via Bloomberg

The Environmental Protection Agency, targeted for \$247 million in cuts for this year's funding, instead escaped with a budget trimmed by \$81 million -- or 1 percent -- and no staff reductions.

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NACD Blog: [Tomatoes: The Secret Recipe](#)

You can't beat a homegrown tomato, so I'm going to let you in on a little secret so you too can grow the BEST tomatoes!

NACD Blog: [Women4theLand provides resources](#)

Women4theLand aims to provide information, networking, education, and resources. The objective is to empower them to make good science-based land use and land management decisions that lead to more viable communities and stronger farm enterprises while improving and sustaining the quality of natural resources.

NACD Blog: [Districts can make connections](#)

When Linda Brownson relocated to New Hampshire from Texas in 2003, she realized she needed help managing her 200 forested acres.

[Perdue unveils plan to reorganize USDA's rural, farm, and trade wings](#) via Agriculture.com

Two weeks into the job, Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue proposed the first reorganization of USDA since 1994, a rapid start to President Trump's instructions to the cabinet to increase federal efficiency.

[Irrigation law changes risking prairie wetlands get tucked into Minn. environmental bill](#) via StarTribune

Tucked away in the massive environmental bill that the Minnesota Legislature will send to Gov. Mark Dayton in coming days are a couple of tweaks to state irrigation law that could imperil a collection of delicate prairie wetlands known as calcareous fens.

[States need more say in ESA implementation, wildlife agency heads tell EPW](#) via Agri-Pulse

States need to have a larger role in implementing the Endangered Species Act, three heads of state wildlife

agencies told the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee at a hearing.

[Trump Executive Order Promises to Slash Farm Regulations](#) via Civil Eats

(Opinion) If the Trump administration has its way, deregulation in the farm industry lies ahead. Whether the Trump administration's agricultural and rural policy directive—which includes priorities of increased energy production, private access to public lands resources, and estate-tax scrutiny—will actually help most farmers and rural residents is up for debate.

[Roberts Sees Tighter Budget for Next Farm Bill](#) via DTN/The Progressive Farmer

Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman Pat Roberts cautioned that he believes there will not be more money for the next farm bill. Members of the panel suggested allowing haying and grazing on Conservation Reserve Program land, access for additional groups to the Connect America fund, combining local, regional, and urban agriculture programs, and more cooperation among providers of food aid to low-income people might all make the farm bill more efficient.

[Products containing certain neonic insecticides should be subject to ESA analysis, judge finds](#) via Agri-Pulse

The Environmental Protection Agency may have to assess the effects on endangered species of 59 products containing clothianidin and thiamethoxam, two neonicotinoid insecticides.

[The Crop That Ate America](#) via Bloomberg

Farmers who had long rotated plantings among a diverse group of grains are increasingly turning to a single one. Corn will make up 68 percent of this year's projected harvest of major U.S. grains and oilseeds.

[Will CRP acres increase in the 2018 farm bill?](#) via Successful Farming

At its field hearing in Michigan over the weekend, the Senate Agriculture Committee heard calls for an expansion in the reserve, now limited to 24 million acres, its smallest size since 1988.

[Trump's Budget Would Eliminate A Key Funder Of Research On Coastal Pollution](#) via NPR

(Opinion) Sea Grant funds support more than 800 projects around the country. The Trump administration plans to zero-out funding by the start of 2018.

[Florida On Fire: 125 Blazes, 'Worst Wildfire Season'](#) via Tampa Patch

With more than 125 active wildfires burning across Florida, including one that spanned more than 2,200 acres in Pasco County, state officials issued a plea to residents and visitors, urging caution.

[Report: Chesapeake Bay health improves, but long way to go](#) via The Washington Post

Boosted by stronger fish populations, the overall health of the Chesapeake Bay improved some last year, but the annual report card for the nation's largest estuary says there's still a long way to go.

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NACD Blog: [SHI's action plan has goal of making soil health 'cornerstone' of natural resources policy](#)

The Soil Health Institute unveiled its soil health action plan aimed at “driving advancements” in soil conservation nationwide. Among the plan’s goals is to make soil health “the cornerstone of natural resource management policies throughout the nation.”

NACD Blog: [A winning partnership: Conservation districts and the NRCS Watershed Stewardship Program](#)

Conservation districts have been a major player throughout the history of the Watershed program, primarily as local sponsors of the flood control projects constructed under the program.

NACD Blog: [NACD's newest Tribal RPG publishes first success story](#)

The Tribal Outreach and Partnership RPG's first success story comes from Washington state, where the North Yakima Conservation District (NYCD) and the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation (Yakama Nation) collaborated to implement a stream restoration project on Ahtanum Creek, an important tributary to the Yakima River in central Washington.

[Perdue defends USDA reorganization plans, outlines agency priorities](#) via Agri-Pulse

Making his first appearance before lawmakers since he took office last month, Perdue enjoyed friendly give and take, easing any concerns among House Agriculture Committee members about his reorganization proposal to create a new undersecretary for trade and eliminate the undersecretary for rural development.

[Delaware Farmer Comes Full Circle on Cover Crops](#) via Lancaster Farming

The 36-year-old farmer has been using cover crops and no-till for years, and it's finally paying off. By using cover crops such as rye and hairy vetch, and no-tilling, Baxter has been able to cultivate healthy, dark soil full of earthworms, nutrients and pores for rainwater to reach his main crops.

[USDA invests \\$17.5 million for rural communities and a sustainable agriculture economy](#) via Science

Magazine

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) announced 47 grants totaling nearly \$17.5 million to improve sustainable agriculture and help rural communities thrive.

[Take care of the dirt, the soil takes care of you](#) via Times Record News

(Opinion) These techniques aren't ground-breaking; farmers have known how to care for their dirt for centuries. But the value of the soil-health initiative is two-fold: It argues that farmers who use soil-enhancing techniques can compete in economic terms with industrial-scale, monoculture agriculture.

[Is this popular gardening material bad for the planet?](#) via The Washington Post

For horticultural use, the extraction of peat requires the removal of a bog's living surface to reach the partially decomposed layers beneath. It grows at a mere sixteenth of an inch a year, and its mining removes layers that take centuries to develop. "Peat is the best vegetative carbon sink we have on the planet. Why dig it up?"

[Groups Press Lawmakers to Oppose USDA Rural Development Change](#) via Bloomberg

More than a dozen groups are calling on Congress to prevent the Agriculture Department from eliminating the undersecretary of rural development position.

[Sid Miller, recorded: Some feral hog bait safeguards 'not doable'](#) via Austin American-Statesman

Miller has heavily promoted Kaput Feral Hog Bait as an antidote to a Texas scourge — the fast-growing hog population is responsible for millions of dollars in damage to Texas farms and golf courses annually.

[County may press for quarantine of an organic farm](#) via Capital Press

Sherman County may order owners of a 2,000-acre organic farm to spray noxious weeds or face a possible quarantine. Local wheat farmers say weeds spreading from Azure Farms, on the outskirts of Moro in north central Oregon, cost them money in the form of additional herbicide control.

[Soil Health Institute Announces Action Plan](#) via AgWired

The Soil Health Institute (SHI) unveiled the "Enriching Soil, Enhancing Life" Soil Health Action Plan during a National Press Club event.

[Fieldwork Roundup: Stalled Farmers Pin Hopes on Drier Weather Ahead](#) via DTN/The Progressive Farmer

A bout of hot, dry weather will do miracles on these sun-starved acres, many growers predicted. Already, a lot of Illinois corn is perking up and turning green after two hot days. Although fields remain wet, some growers found themselves in the odd situation of actually needing a shower to soften crusted soils so planted corn and soybeans could emerge.

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Conservation Clip List is a weekly collection of articles distributed by NACD that provides our members and partners with the latest news in what's driving conservation. If you have a relevant submission, please contact your [NACD Communications Team](#).

[Perdue assures lawmakers worried about USDA budget cuts](#) via Agri-Pulse

Perdue emphasized to the House Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee that he had only been on the job for five weeks and said he needed to review key budget provisions, including the proposal to cut USDA's work force by 5.5 percent, or about 5,500 full-time jobs.

[Wild horses could be sold for slaughter in Trump budget plan](#) via The Washington Post

President Donald Trump's budget proposal calls for saving \$10 million next year by selling wild horses captured throughout the U.S. West without the requirement that buyers guarantee the animals won't be resold for slaughter.

[Most California farm-water suppliers are breaking this law. Why doesn't the state act?](#) via The Sacramento Bee

During California's epic five-year drought, most of the state's irrigation districts didn't comply with a 2007 law that requires them to account for how much water they're delivering directly to farmers. Farm-advocacy groups say irrigation districts have been bombarded with a confusing slew of state and federal laws and regulations that often have overlapping reporting requirements, so it's no wonder their compliance rates are low.

[EPA won't declare Lake Erie's waters in Ohio impaired](#) via The Detroit News

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency won't declare Ohio's western end of Lake Erie impaired by toxic algae, siding with state regulators who say they are making progress in tackling the problem.

[Recovery of the range: Harsh winter deals deadly hand to Wyoming Range muleys](#) via Jackson Hole News & Guide

In a quarter century of managing big game herds for Game and Fish wildlife biologist Gary Fralick had never seen anything like winter 2016-17. He had to dig through 33 years of data to find a season as

severe.

[Opinion: Farmers need a flood of research](#) via Agri-Pulse

(Opinion) In California, five years of record-breaking drought have given way to a record-breaking winter of rain and snow that has provided farmers more water than they know what to do with.

[Why your humble bowl of oatmeal could help feed a growing planet](#) via The Washington Post

(Opinion) We can talk till the cows come home about why markets make it so hard for farmers to incorporate other crops (summary: it's complicated), but how do we fix it? Certainly, there are policy options that can provide incentives for farmers to opt for the less profitable crop in order to get environmental benefits; I'm a big fan of finding ways to align subsidies with strategies to boost soil health, increase biodiversity, and reduce pollution.

[Hot Air Balloon Hunting OK in Texas](#) via U.S. News and World Report

Texas lawmakers have approved the hunting of feral hogs and coyotes from hot air balloons. The state already allows the shooting of feral hogs from helicopters, which is expensive and has not been very successful, because the aircraft often scare the animals away. Hot air balloons are quieter and offer a more stable shooting platform.

[Nearly \\$1 Million in Stolen Bees Recovered in Fresno](#) via KQED

Fresno authorities say they've uncovered the biggest beehive theft they've ever seen. They recovered nearly a \$1 million worth of bees belonging to a dozen victims.

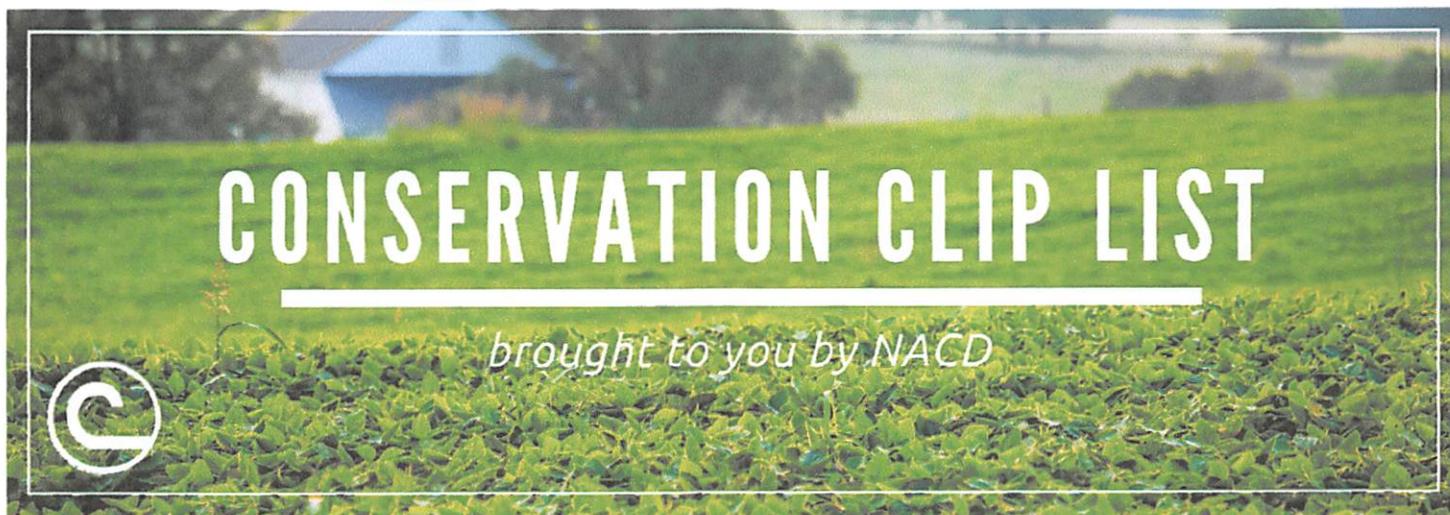
[The Problem Of Urban Geese](#) via WhoTV

In the 1960s, there were zero nesting pairs of Canada geese in Iowa. Thanks to successful conservation, there are now more than 75,000. Great for hunters in rural areas, not so great for those of us on urban lakes.

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NACD Blog: [Did You Know? The power of a business plan](#)

A business plan is a living blueprint that guides an organization's priorities and activities. It also incorporates market research and resource identification with implementation strategies for achieving growth and sustainability objectives.

NACD Blog: [From City to Country](#)

It's a question I get a lot – "What brought you to agriculture?" It was an entirely accidental but perfect match that I could have never predicted.

[Why fighting wildfires often fails -- and what to do about it](#) via CBS News

Wildland fires are growing worse in a time of drought and climate change, and the biggest and most destructive fires can't be stopped. Yet the government has to try, because more than a 100 million Americans now live in -- or near -- forests and grasslands that can erupt in flames.

[Iowa wetland bank program provides credits](#) via Wallaces Farmer

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service and Iowa Agricultural Mitigation Inc. announced that the first round of wetland mitigation credits is available to farmers seeking alternatives for their farmed wetlands.

[Survey finds US honeybee losses improve from horrible to bad](#) via The Washington Post

There's a glimmer of hope for America's ailing honeybees as winter losses were the lowest in more than a decade. Beekeepers lost 21 percent of their colonies over last winter. That's the lowest winter loss level since the survey started in 2006 and an improvement from nearly 27 percent the winter before.

[Rare fish sheds light on improved water quality](#) via High Plains/Midwest Ag Journal

A rare cave-dwelling fish is shedding new light on how farmers are improving water quality through cover crops and nutrient management. New nests of grotto sculpin are growing in caves in southeastern Missouri; improved water quality likely accounts for the increased numbers.

[Pioneering Iowa Sustainable Agriculture Research Center Hangs On, Barely](#) via High Plains Public Radio

A leading research center focused on local farmers and environmental conservation is hanging on by a thread, even as the movement to diversify agriculture, which it helped launch, continues to thrive. The Iowa Legislature recently decided to defund the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture, leaving it to rely on money from its existing endowment, grants it can procure, and whatever support Iowa State University chooses to provide.

[On the St. Louis River, a massive environmental cleanup is now under threat](#) via Star Tribune

The most critical phase, removal and capping of sediment contaminated by toxins, is just about to begin. But last week, in the budget blueprint he sent to Congress, Trump proposed putting a halt to the cleanup by eliminating money for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI), a sprawling, seven-year-old project funded by the Environmental Protection Agency. That \$250 million to \$300 million in annual federal funding is critical to the St. Louis estuary cleanup — as well as similar projects from Detroit to Muskegon and Thunder Bay — designed to rejuvenate Great Lakes towns bogged down by legacies of pollution.

[Researchers test self-destructing moth pest in cabbage patch](#) via ABC News

Researchers in a New York cabbage patch are planning the first release on American soil of insects genetically engineered to die before they can reproduce. It's a pesticide-free attempt to control invasive diamondback moths, a voracious consumer of cabbage, broccoli, and other cruciferous crops that's notorious for its ability to shrug off every new poison in the agricultural arsenal.

[Lawsuit Alleges EPA Failed to Protect Shenandoah River](#) via U.S. News and World Report

A federal lawsuit alleges the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency failed to protect the Shenandoah River from pollution that's caused the scenic waterway to become clogged with algae blooms. It challenges the EPA's approval of Virginia's decision not to list the Shenandoah as impaired by the algae under the Clean Water Act.

[Iowa farmers plant record acres of cover crops](#) via The Valley News

Iowa farmers planted more than 353,000 acres of cover crops with financial assistance from state and federal conservation programs in the fall of 2016 – nearly 18 percent more than the previous year. Based on statewide surveys and aerial imagery completed by conservation groups this spring, agriculture leaders estimate Iowa farmers planted at least 600,000 cover crop acres last fall.

[Officials in Nevada see dry cheatgrass as a wildfire danger](#) via The News and Observer

A wet winter has produced a bumper crop of cheatgrass that fire officials in northern Nevada expect will dry out and become prime fuel for the smallest of sparks during a hot, dry wildfire season ahead.

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California Special
Districts Association
Districts Stronger Together

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



Find Out How to Increase Your District's Funding with this Informative Workshop

Limited Class Size - Register Now!

[Beyond the Basics: Implementing Funding](#)

When: May 24, 2017, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Where: CSDA Training Center, 1112 "I" Street Suite 250, Sacramento, CA 95814

Funding for special districts throughout California continues to be a significant challenge, with important political and legal challenges. In this all-day workshop, participants will be presented with the entire process to establish new revenues, from first concept to final implementation. This interactive workshop will provide critical, "real-world" steps and important strategies, combined with case studies on special taxes, benefit assessments, fees and charges, grants, and other approaches.

Click [here](#) now to register for event!

Download the complete [2017 Professional Development Catalog](#) for more information on all CSDA conferences, workshops, webinars, and on-demand webinars.

Is your district budget under \$10 million? You may be eligible for scholarship funds through the [Special District Leadership Foundation](#).

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May 9, 2017



Central Valley Chapter Ratified by CSDA Board

On Friday, April 21, the CSDA Board of Directors voted unanimously to sign an affiliation agreement with the Central Valley Local Chapter (CVLC). The Chapter, which encompasses all of Fresno, Kings, and Tulare counties, was created to provide a local forum for member districts to discuss and consider issues of importance to special

districts. [Read more...](#)

State Weighs Best Approach to New Water Conservation Laws

Governor Brown's administration presented their plan for California water conservation policy in Assembly Budget Subcommittee #3 on Resources and Transportation on Thursday. The budget trailer bill, "[Making Water Conservation a California Way of Life](#)," was met with heavy opposition from water agencies and local governments. CSDA testified with concerns about considering a substantial public policy change through the budget process. After hearing concerns from many stakeholders, Subcommittee Chair Richard Bloom (D – Santa Monica) moved to postpone a decision on the trailer bill to allow the policy to be considered through the legislative process. [Read more...](#)

Don't Miss Out! Last Chance to Apply for a \$100,000 Climate Change Grant

The deadline for eligible special districts to apply for a climate change project grant is this Friday, May 12, by midnight (PST). Sponsored by PG&E, the [Better Together Resilient Communities](#) grant program will invest \$1 million towards local initiatives to build greater climate resilience. The 2017 focus is on wildfires, specifically on fostering healthy and resilient forests and watersheds. All government organizations with research, planning, or demonstration projects that will help communities prevent and prepare for increasing wildfire risk are encouraged to apply. [Read more...](#)

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Webinar: Customer Service in the Public Sector

Presenter: CPS HR Consulting

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POOLED INVESTMENT FUNDS FOR LOCAL AGENCIES

CSDA
Career Center

For the CSDA District Purchasing Card, go west.

BANK OF WEST

EDUCATION CALENDAR

May 11
[How to Find, Apply, and Secure Grant Funding Webinar](#)

May 16
[2017 Special Districts Legislative Days Sacramento](#)

May 23
[Governments Engaging Youth](#)

When: August 22, 2017

Unlike many businesses that provide customer service, public service providers are often the only game in town. This customer service training program is designed for public employees who routinely deliver services in the field. This class will explore the Three Dimensions of Service as they apply to your agency: the human dimension, the business dimension, and the hidden dimension.

Click [here](#) now to register for this webinar!



MEMBER SERVICES

Important Updates from CalTRUST

The [CalTRUST](#) Board of Trustees held their Annual Meeting last month where a number of important issues were considered, including the appointment of a new President. The Board elected Dan McAllister, San Diego County Treasurer-Tax Collector, as the new President of CalTRUST.

Another major focus of this year's Annual Meeting was the consideration of partners to provide custody, investment management, and fund accounting services. Following the extensive RFP and review process that took place earlier this spring, the CalTRUST Board of Trustees took action to select providers for each of the services that were put to bid. [Read more...](#)

Call for Nominations: 2018-20 CSDA Board of Directors

In February, nomination information and forms were mailed to every CSDA voting member agency. The leadership of CSDA is elected from its six geographical networks. Each of the six networks has three seats on the board with staggered three-year terms. Candidates must be affiliated with an independent special district that is a CSDA Regular Member in good standing located within the [geographic network](#) they seek to represent.

The CSDA Board of Directors is the governing body responsible for all policy decisions related to CSDA's member services, legislative advocacy, education and resources. The Board of Directors is crucial to the operation of the association and to the representation of the common interests of all California's special districts before the Legislature and the state administration. [Read more...](#)

DISTRICT PRESS

Spring Gardening Kick-Start Events in May



The [Chino Basin Water Conservation District](#) (CBWCD) will host two free events, May 11 and 13, to launch its new online gardening tool, the Inland Valley Garden Planter. This free online tool is designed just for gardeners in the inland valley areas of western San Bernardino County, and features plant palettes that work best in the region's climate. Enjoy an evening tour of CBWCD's demonstration garden at the free

Webinar

May 24

[Beyond the Basics: Implementing Funding Sacramento](#)

May 25

[Anatomy of a CalPERS Audit - What to Know Now Webinar](#)

June 6

[Required Harassment Prevention Training for Staff/Board Webinar](#)

June 9

[Ask the Experts: Energy Project Financing Webinar](#)

June 14

[Public Records Act, Records Retention & Digital Workplace Camarillo](#)

June 25

[2017 General Manager Leadership Summit Newport Beach](#)

EMPLOYMENT AND RFPS

Listed below are the most recent positions posted to CSDA's [Career Center](#):

[Facilities Maintenance Helper | San Juan Water District](#)

[Administrative Manager | Placer County Water Agency](#)

[FIRE CHIEF | APPLE VALLEY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT](#)

[Human Resources Manager | Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District](#)

[Administrative Service Manager | Reclamation District No. 1000](#)

To view all job

Garden Launch Party on May 11 from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Those interested in diving in deeper to garden planning should attend the free "Pick 'em and Plant 'em" workshop on May 13 from 9:00 a.m. - noon. Both events will be held at 4594 San Bernardino Street, Montclair. For more information, [click here](#).

NEW West Placer Groundwater Sustainability Agency

At the May 4 meeting of the Placer County Water Agency, the Board of Directors approved an agreement to join neighboring entities in creation of the West Placer Groundwater Sustainability Agency (WPGSA). Once formed, the WPGSA will manage local groundwater conditions as required by the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014 (SGMA). Other public entities considering participation in the WPGSA include the Cities of Lincoln and Roseville, the Nevada Irrigation District, and Placer County. Formation of the WPGSA will ensure local control of the water resources, as opposed to the state, and set up the appropriate framework for long-term sustainable groundwater management. More information about the WPGSA and SGMA is available at www.westplacergroundwater.com.

opportunities, please visit the [Career Center](#).

Open RFPs and RFQs:

RFQ - On-Call Sanitation Engineering Consulting Services

RFP - Audit Services

View and download open RFPs and RFQs at the [RFP Clearinghouse](#).

For information on posting an RFP/RFQ or job opportunity, please call 877.924.2732.

NEW District of Distinction Accreditation

The [San Mateo County Mosquito & Vector Control District](#) has been accredited as a District of Distinction through the [Special District Leadership Foundation](#) (SDLF).



The District of Distinction accreditation is one of the most prestigious local government awards in the state of California. This award clearly validates the district's commitment to good governance and to ethical and sound operating practices.

Submit your application to become a District of Distinction by clicking [here](#) for the application. Or contact [Beth Hummel](#), SDLF program assistant, at (916) 231-2939.

Connect with CSDA on Facebook and Twitter!

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Please do not reply to this automatic e-mail.



CSDA Sponsored Legislation Receives Unanimous Bipartisan Support

CSDA sponsored legislation, [AB 979](#) (Lackey) passed out of Assembly Local Government Committee last week on a unanimous bipartisan vote.

The bill simplifies the process for obtaining special district representation on local agency formation commissions. The Committee amended AB 979 to clarify the process established by the bill. AB 979 will be referred next to Assembly Appropriations Committee for further review. Read CSDA's [Fact Sheet](#) for more information, and please contact CSDA Legislative Representative Rylan Gervase at rylang@csda.net with questions.

Over 200 Special District Leaders Meet with State Legislators

Today, over 200 special district leaders will visit the State Capitol to participate in Special Districts Legislative Days. At this two-day conference, special district officials meet with state legislators and hear from state leaders about the latest issues impacting local government. Attendees will network with fellow leaders, participate in legislative and policy panels, and hear from keynote speakers Senator Ed Hernandez and Little Hoover Commission Chair Pedro Nava.

Follow along with us @SpecialDistrict on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) to receive updates on capitol visits, watch live reports, and more. Share your favorite moments with us @SpecialDistrict using the hashtag #LegislativeDays2017 throughout the event. We will see you soon!

Governor Releases Revised State Budget Proposal

On May 11, Governor Jerry Brown released his May Revision for the 2017-18 State Budget. The Governor's message emphasized a cautious approach to state spending, citing concerns about losing billions in federal health care funding if the Affordable Care Act is repealed by Washington, and the likelihood of an economic downturn that would affect state revenues given that California's current recovery is two years short of being the longest on record. [Read more...](#)

May 16, 2017



EDUCATION CALENDAR

May 23
[Governments Engaging Youth Webinar](#)

May 24
[Beyond the Basics: Implementing Funding Sacramento](#)

May 25
[Anatomy of a CalPERS Audit - What to Know Now](#)

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Webinar: Ask the Experts - Energy Project Financing

Presenter: CSDA Finance Corporation

When: June 9, 2017 from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Join us for this FREE webinar to help you learn how to create a sustainable way to manage your districts energy load and reduce costs. The CSDA Finance Corporation has put together a panel of financing consultants and industry experts to discuss the different techniques for financing your district's energy efficiency/renewable project, including traditional tax-exempt leases, clean renewable energy bonds (CREBS), and rebate programs.



Click [here](#) to download a registration form for this webinar.

MEMBER SERVICES

Now Available for Preorder: Updated CSDA Sample Policy Handbook

Our collection of over 100 newly reviewed and updated policies includes policies for board and board meetings, administration and financial management, and personnel. This new edition is delivered on a USB drive in an editable format to allow you to customize your policies and make them your own. Purchase includes a subscription to receive on a quarterly basis a digital copy of any new or updated policies through 2018. While all sample policies have been vetted by CSDA Business Affiliate law firms, we recommend your district seeks legal counsel to ensure compliance with applicable laws. Visit the online [CSDA Bookstore](#) for more information or contact [Member Services](#) to request a table of contents.

DISTRICT PRESS

Career Compass: I'm Not Ready!

The International City/County Management Association (ICMA) Coaching Program recently published its 55th Career Compass column entitled "[I'm Not Ready!](#)" which provides valuable suggestions on gaining the confidence to land an executive management position. If you have missed these articles on leadership and career development topics, we encourage you to check it out.

You can view all of the Career Compass columns [here](#).

Open Space Authority Acquires Historic Property in Santa Teresa Foothills



Quarry site.

The [Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority](#) has purchased a historic 51.78-acre open space property in the Santa Teresa Foothills from the Pfeiffer family, who settled on the land 146 years ago. The Santa Teresa Ridge parcel, marked by unique rock outcroppings and extensive valley views, sits on the southern edge of the Santa Teresa Foothills in the City of San José. Located above the Greystone neighborhood near the Boulder Ridge Golf Course, the former agricultural parcel is rich in Santa Clara Valley history including the Greystone

Webinar

June 6

[Required Harassment Prevention Training for Staff/Board](#)

Webinar

June 9

[Ask the Experts: Energy Project Financing](#)

Webinar

June 14

[Public Records Act, Records Retention & Digital Workplace](#)
Camarillo

June 25

[2017 General Manager Leadership Summit](#)
Newport Beach

July 9

[2017 Special District Leadership Academy Conference](#)
Napa

EMPLOYMENT AND RFPS

Listed below are the most recent positions posted to CSDA's [Career Center](#):

[Deputy Board Secretary V II | West Basin Municipal Water District](#)

[General Manager- Full Time Exempt Employee | Channel Islands Beach Community Services District](#)

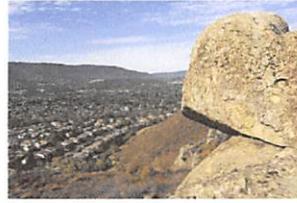
[General Manager | Sacramento Suburban Water District](#)

[Organizational Performance Program Manager | Union Sanitary District](#)

[Facilities Maintenance Helper | San Juan Water District](#)

To view all job opportunities, please visit the [Career Center](#).

“The Open Space Authority is excited to protect this history-rich land in the Santa Teresa Foothills,” said Andrea Mackenzie, General Manager. “This acquisition brings us another step closer to creating an interconnected system of open space, parks, and trails and will provide new opportunities to connect communities with nature.” [Read more...](#)



Open RFPs and RFQs:

RFP - Website Design & Development

RFQ - On-Call Sanitation Engineering Consulting Services

RFP - Audit Services

View and download open RFPs and RFQs at the [RFP Clearinghouse](#).

For information on posting an RFP/RFQ or job opportunity, please call 877.924.2732.

Special District Administrator Renewals

Congratulations to Karl Drexel with the Amador Regional Sanitation District, Kimberly Thomer with the Olivenhain Municipal Water District, and Pete Kampa with the Saddle Creek Community Services District for renewing their Special District Administrator Certifications through the [Special District Leadership Foundation](#). Certification programs are a way for professionals within a field to affirm - to their customers, to their board of directors, and to themselves - that they are competent and experienced in their profession.



For more information on SDLF, the [SDA Certification Program](#), exam dates, and more, contact Beth Hummel, program assistant, at (916) 231-2939 or by email at bethh@sdlf.org.

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Legal Type email... 1	RE: Turtle Monitorin...	Judy Mitchell	Thu 07:37	3 KB
W Brown	FW: Invoice to The ...	Rose Corona	Wed 16:09	20 KB
W Caballero	Turtle Monitoring In...	Judy Mitchell	Wed 14:00	29 KB

Select Threads Messages 1 to 50 of 528

Rose,

We won't let Washington take aim at our national monuments.

At The Nature Conservancy, we're proud of the fact that we work with people on both sides of the aisle to protect our lands and waters. When we see policy that is drastically out of step with the needs of nature and people, we're going to speak up. Here's our thinking on the **executive order** directing the Department of the Interior to review the last two decades of national monument designations by Presidents Clinton, Bush and Obama.

First, it's not a good sign for public lands when they start trying to undo national monuments. National monuments are protected for a reason. They are not the work of one administration, but decades of science, conservation strategy and stakeholders coming together. Public lands are open for multiple uses, including recreation and development, but in some cases a place is deemed too special and people unite to conserve it. The path to protection is long. As a conservation organization, we know this process first-hand. We've protected millions of acres of land all over the United States, and many of those places have become national monuments or national parks.

In California, seven national monuments are under review, including **Carrizo Plain**. We knew this place was special decades ago when we acquired tens of thousands of acres to consolidate land ownership and set it up for a national monument designation. This remote grassland area is home to one of the largest concentrations of threatened and endangered species in the continental United States. You may have seen photos of the recent "super bloom" that painted its hillsides a spectacular purple and yellow—so colorful it was visible from space—an appropriate quality for a national monument!

The hard work that goes into protecting these priceless monuments is not something that you just erase in 120-day review period. The Conservancy is making the case directly with the Department of the Interior that national monuments under review should remain protected for the nature that depends on them and the people who enjoy them. Rest assured that we will make our voice heard with a diverse set of stakeholders and policymakers.



Mike Sweeney
Executive Director, California Chapter

Financial Management for Special Districts

When: August 10, 2017, 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Where: Greater Vallejo Recreation District, 395 Amador Street, Vallejo, CA 94590

Money, money, money...It's on everyone's mind and on your job description. Make sure you understand the full scope of financial information affecting special districts today. From budgeting and internal controls to long term planning and capital improvement plans. Attendees will get the information they need to begin to assess the overall financial health of their district and steps needed to make positive changes.

Click [here](#) now to register for event!

Webinar: Fraud Environment - Tips for Detection and Controls

When: August 17, 2017, 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Presenter: David Alvey & Vikki Rodriguez, Maze and Associates

This webinar will discuss the fraud environment that special districts can face. We will also look at ways you



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

The NACD eResource

Weekly News Briefs from NACD

SUMMER MEETING REGISTRATION HAS LAUNCHED! HERE'S WHY YOU SHOULD JOIN US IN IOWA:

NACD and the Conservation Districts of Iowa (CDI) will be jointly hosting the 2017 Conservation Forum and Tour from July 15 to 18 at the Prairie Meadows Hotel in Altoona, Iowa.



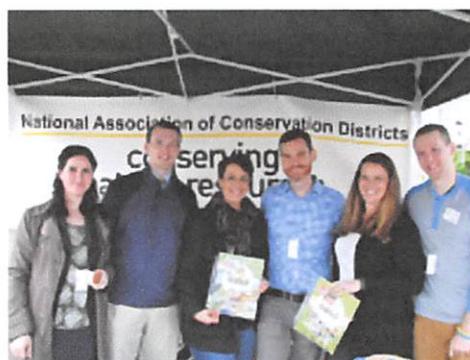
We have an action-packed agenda planned for you that you can take a look through [on our website](#). You'll see that some activities

and meetings are labeled as "NACD," "Iowa," or "Joint." These event classifications will make drafting your personal itinerary for the meeting a cinch! If you have any questions though, we can help you. Simply email events@nacdnet.org.

Attendees will have the choice of two tours on Tuesday; you can find descriptions if you scroll down to the bottom of NACD's [Summer Meeting webpage](#). If you wish to attend, make sure to reserve your seat when you [fill out the meeting's electronic registration form](#).

Registering to attend the meeting is easy – just [click here](#) – and head to [our website](#) to find information on how to **book your hotel room** at the Prairie Meadows Conference Center with NACD's special discount price of \$107 a night.

Stewardship Week celebration on the National Mall



The opening day of the USDA Farmers Market brought tourists and locals alike to the block between the USDA South Building and the National Mall on Friday, May 5, including upwards of 100 people who stopped by NACD's Stewardship Week tent in the People's Garden.

Are you interested in printing FREE educational materials with this year's stewardship theme – "[Healthy Soils are Full of Life!](#)"? If so, click here to head over to [NACD's Marketplace](#).

National Land and Range Judging Contest winners announced

Stay tuned to eResource for more information on the summer meeting, including speaker updates and much, much more.

AG SEC. PERDUE SPEAKS TO CONSERVATION ISSUES ON IOWA TRIP; NACD MAKES AN ASK

In his first major policy speech given at the Couser Cattle Company in Nevada, Iowa, last Friday, Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue told a farmer worried about reporting requirements and paperwork that he's "on it."

"I understand, when you go into the NRCS office... we shouldn't put you under an interrogation," Perdue said.

To keep the conversation going, NACD sent Sec. Perdue a letter on how costly and time-consuming SAM and DUNS reporting requirements are. You can read [the letter](#) – and [the press release](#) we wrote about the letter – here in [our Newsroom](#).

To another question from the audience on the importance of working lands, Perdue said "whether we own this land or whether we rent it, we want to leave it a better than we found it... That's what we want to do from USDA, that's what we want to do for our land. It's God's bestowment upon us, and we are all stewards."

NACD sent out [a press release](#) on last week's appropriations bill (now law), praising Congress' work to provide robust funding for federal conservation programs – particularly those housed under USDA – through the remainder of this fiscal year. Have questions? Contact NACD Director of Government Affairs [Coleman Garrison](#).

DOI ISSUES LIST OF NATIONAL MONUMENTS UNDER REVIEW

Late last Friday, the Department of the Interior (DOI) released a list of 27 national monuments to be



More than 600 4-H and FFA members from 33 states competed in the 66th National Land and Range Judging Contest hosted by the Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts (OACD) last week at Turner Farms in Amber.

The National Conservation Foundation was a sponsor of the event; NCF Trustee Rick Jeans was in attendance; and OACD President and NACD Soil Health Champion Jimmy Emmons presented the 2017 National Land and Range Judging Contest Honoree Award.

If you're curious about what the national contest looks like, you can view a video [here](#) and photos [here](#) (the photo above is courtesy of Robert Hathorne with the Oklahoma NRCS). Complete contest results can be found at www.judgingcard.com.

Help us decide the theme for our 2018 annual meeting in Nashville!

Planning is already well underway for the [2018 NACD Annual Meeting](#), January 27 – 31 in Nashville, Tennessee! In preparation, NACD is seeking creative submissions for the meeting's theme. Whoever submits the winning theme for the 2018 Annual Meeting will be awarded \$250 toward their registration cost.

To submit a suggested theme idea, please [fill out this form](#). The deadline

reviewed as directed by a [recent executive order](#). The DOI is holding a public comment period to ensure local input in the review process. Comments may be submitted online after May 12 at

<http://www.regulations.gov> (search "DOI-2017-0002") or by mail to Monument Review, MS-1530, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street NW, Washington, DC 20240.

The deadline for comments on national monuments other than Bears Ears is 60 days after the notice is posted on the federal register. The deadline for Bears Ears is 15 days after the notice is posted.

FOR YOUR CALENDAR: NACD U&C WEBINAR

Tune in from noon to 1:00pm Eastern time on May 18 to learn how two conservation districts are reaching out to urban and community audiences. The Rockland County SWCD in New York is offering several citizen science-based environmental programs throughout the year. The Cuyahoga SWCD in Ohio publishes Stormwater Technical Tips and offers Toolbox Talks and other educational opportunities to small businesses in the area.

This webinar, sponsored by The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company, is free – just make sure to register by emailing NACD's Deb Bogar at deb-bogar@nacdnet.org with your name, title, district or business name, and state.

CRP REACHES ITS CAP AT 24 MILLION ACRES; CREP TO HELP FILL VOID IN SOME STATES

Last week, USDA notified county offices that it will be suspending enrollment in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) for the rest of Fiscal Year 2017. CRP is currently capped at 24 million acres, and USDA has determined that current enrollment is too close to the cap to allow for additional contracts. Continuous CRP enrollment will begin again in October, once existing

for entries is Tuesday, May 30.

NRCS recognizes two SWCDs in Oregon

NRCS has recognized two Oregon soil and water conservation districts (SWCDs) with annual Partnership Awards. These awards honor a conservation district and a conservation district employee who have provided exemplary assistance in implementing conservation programs on Oregon's private working agricultural lands and forestlands.

This year, the Columbia SWCD received the District Partnership Award and Teresa Matteson from the Benton SWCD received the District Employee Partnership Award. Congratulations to both districts!

Envirothon season is full steam ahead!



Tennessee's state Envirothon competition started this morning in Crossville, Tennessee. The winning team will join recent state competition winners – Spartanburg High School Team A from South Carolina (pictured), Colorado's Woodland Park High School team, Idaho's Skyline High School team, and Montana's Helena High School team – at the [NCF-Envirothon international competition](#), held July 23 – 29 in Emmitsburg, Maryland. Stay tuned to eResource as more state

contracts expire and the total number of acres in the program falls.

While continuous CRP enrollment will be suspended, the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), which is administered in partnership with the states, will not. In Minnesota, CREP continuous sign-up starts May 15.

“Minnesota is at a crossroads in conservation,” said John Jaschke, executive director of the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), in a recent press release. “The state is facing serious water quality challenges, and we’re losing hundreds of thousands of acres of grassland through expiring CRP. MN CREP isn’t the whole answer, but it plays an important role in addressing both of these issues.”

MN CREP is funded with approximately \$350 million from USDA and \$150 million from state sources. For more information, visit www.bwsr.state.mn.us/crep.

DOD’S REPI ANNOUNCES THE SENTINEL LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP OF THE YEAR

The [Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration \(REPI\) Program](#) is pleased to announce the Eastern North Carolina Sentinel Landscape Partnership as the recipient of the 2017 REPI Challenge award.

The winning partnership is a joint effort between the Army, Marine Corps, Air Force, and other government and non-government organizations, including the North Carolina Foundation for Soil and Water Conservation, to protect rural and natural lands around a number of military installations in North Carolina.

The total award of \$9.2 million in REPI funds will leverage \$10.1 million in partner contributions to protect more than 17,600 acres in the eastern portion of the state. Since the REPI Challenge was started in 2012, \$37 million (plus \$117 million in partner contributions) have gone to protecting nearly 110,000 acres of working lands, habitat, and open spaces at 12

results come in!

Job posting in Washington state: Natural resource technician

Thurston Conservation District in Tumwater, Washington, is seeking a natural resource technician. This position is responsible for conducting and monitoring field data acquisition, conservation plan analysis, and small farm management planning. Experience in water quality monitoring and stream habitat restoration is preferred. [Click here](#) for the full position description – the application deadline is May 31.

Contact Us

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(202) 547 6223

[email us](#)

NACD Events Calendar

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- NACD Summer Conservation Forum and Tour - July 15 - 18, 2017
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- Southeast Region Meeting - August 6 - 9, 2017
- Northeast Region Meeting -



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

The NACD eResource

Weekly News Briefs from NACD

AG SEC. PERDUE ANNOUNCES USDA REORGANIZATION

Last week, Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue announced his plan to reorganize the mission areas under USDA, including creating a new one for “Farm Production and Conservation.” This new mission area will house the Farm Service Agency (FSA), Risk Management Agency (RMA), and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and will be led by a newly created undersecretary position. The secretary has promised that no reductions in USDA’s workforce will occur as a direct result of this action.



NACD has existing policy related to any reorganization of USDA that opposes any transfer of program administration without a thorough, locally-led assessment of field office structure and capacity in order to maintain the local delivery system. [In a press release](#), NACD CEO Jeremy Peters said NACD “looks forward to providing input to USDA throughout the reorganization process to ensure continued strong service delivery. Because many of the nation’s 3,000 conservation districts

The spring edition of The Resource is in your inbox



This issue of The Resource is jam-packed with current conservation news, NACD and Capitol Hill policy updates, district spotlights, and much, much more. [Click here](#) to download it now, or [here to view it](#) on NACD’s website.

Job posting: NCF- Envirothon program manager

NACD is seeking to fill a key position charged with providing support and coordination to state and provincial Envirothon program managers and the international program’s operating and host committees. [The full job](#)

are co-located with USDA field offices, local input is critical as the reorganization progresses to prevent any loss of service.”

Stay tuned to eResource for a synopsis on the [secretary's testimony before the House Agriculture Committee](#) tomorrow – Wednesday, May 17 – at 10:00am Eastern.

DISTRICTS INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN RSET WEBINARS

America's conservation districts are experts at helping producers develop conservation plans. A new NRCS planning tool – the Resource Stewardship Evaluation Tool (RSET) – now available nationwide for crop and grazing lands, offers more comprehensive computing power to districts than was ever available before.

NRCS is holding a series of webinars for its employees and conservation districts to help them understand how RSET can be used. [To access the webinars at the dates and times listed below, click here.](#) Audio will come through your computer/device speakers; there is no conference call-in information. Participants should use the “Enter as Guest” option and type in their first and last name. These webinars will also be taped and available online at a later date.

Resource Stewardship (RS) Webinar Schedule (All times Eastern)

- RS Overview – May 23, 11:00am to 1:00pm
- Cropland RS: How to Guide – May 22, 2:00pm to 4:00pm
- Range RS: How to Guide – May 17, 2:00pm to 4:00pm and May 24, 11:00am to 1:00pm
- Pasture RS: How to Guide – May 18, 2:00pm to 4:00pm and May 25, 11:00am to 1:00pm
- Science behind RS – May 18, 11:00am to 1:00pm and May 24, 2:00pm to 4:00pm

NEW ADDITIONS TO NACD'S BLOG CELEBRATE NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE WEEK AND WOMEN WOODLAND OWNERS

[description is available on NACD's website.](#) Interested candidates should email their cover letter and resume to hr@nacdnet.org by COB May 30, 2017.

Call for presentations: NACD U&C Webinars

The NACD Urban and Community (U&C) Resource Policy Group (RPG) has partnered with The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company to offer monthly NACD U&C webinars for nearly five years. These popular webinars – held on the third Thursday of every month from noon to 1:00pm Eastern – cover a variety of conservation topics and include presentations from districts ([archived U&C webinars and presentations are available here](#)).

The RPG is now seeking input on next fiscal year's webinar series beginning October 2017. Help us design webinars that help you! Please take a moment to: [Offer to give a presentation](#); send in a brief paragraph describing the program/project that you would like to showcase, and/or tell us the urban and community conservation topics/issues and/or speakers you would like to have covered.

Please send your proposals and topic/speaker ideas to NACD Senior Advisor Deb Bogar at deb-bogar@nacdnet.org by June 30, 2017.

Deadline approaching: Help us decide the theme for our 2018 annual meeting in Nashville!

[A winning partnership: Conservation districts and the NRCS Watershed Stewardship Program](#)

– Conservation districts have been a major player throughout the history of the NRCS' Watershed and Flood Prevention Program, primarily as local sponsors of the flood control projects constructed under the program. In recent years, conservation districts have successfully expanded the focus of the Watershed program to include mitigation of extreme weather events and have added increased environmental benefits.

[Women4theLand provides resources](#) –

Women4theLand, an Indiana-based partnership, aims to empower female woodland owners to make good science-based land use and land management decisions that lead to more viable communities and stronger farm enterprises while improving and sustaining the quality of natural resources.

[Districts can make connections](#) – The two-centuries-old New Hampshire farm sits 1,500 feet above sea level in the western foothills of the White Mountains; its 200 forested acres an even mix of northern hardwoods and conifers. It was a paradise for Linda Brownson, but the property presented a series of management ideas and obstacles.



GREENVILLE COUNTY SWCD IN SOUTH CAROLINA

The Greenville County Soil and Water Conservation District is located in the heart of urban Greenville, South Carolina, which was once a busy textile center. Today, Greenville has a thriving urban gardening tradition and a network of community gardens.

In collaboration with Campbell Young Leaders, the Legacy Charter School, Chartwells School Dining Services, Greater Greenville Sanitation, and Gardening for

Planning is well underway for the [2018 NACD Annual Meeting](#), January 27 – 31 in Nashville, Tennessee! In preparation, NACD is seeking creative submissions for the meeting's theme. Whoever submits the winning theme for the 2018 Annual Meeting will be awarded \$250 toward their registration cost.

To submit a suggested theme idea, please [fill out this form](#). The deadline for entries is Tuesday, May 30.

For your calendar: NACD summer meeting registration open

NACD and the Conservation Districts of Iowa (CDI) will be jointly hosting the 2017 Conservation Forum and Tour from **July 15 to 18** at the Prairie Meadows Hotel in Altoona, Iowa. [Visit NACD's website](#) to register, read through the tentative meeting agenda, and reserve your hotel room at NACD's special discounted rate of \$107 per night.

Teams at Envirothon state competitions battle for spot at international competition

Bismarck High School Team #1 (pictured below) won the [North Dakota Envirothon state competition](#) last week, and will travel to Maryland this July to compete against 45 state and nine provincial teams in Emmitsburg.

Good, the district is establishing a working model urban farm to (1) educate students about soil and water conservation and (2) provide the local community and Legacy Charter School with a consistent supply of fresh produce and agricultural products.

This farm – called the [Legacy City Farm](#) – is located close to the Reedy River, which runs throughout the city's main residential and urban centers. This unique locale presents numerous opportunities to demonstrate the latest conservation techniques in urban agriculture to residents, other community gardeners, and local farmers market vendors and customers.



The Farm is designed to produce fresh produce and agricultural products that will be purchased by Chartwells, Legacy Charter School's food vendor. As additional fresh produce becomes available, access will be provided to the local community. In addition, the Farm offers educational opportunities for the students at Legacy Charter School. Faculty members collaborate with the Farm manager to integrate educational activities, learning projects, and internships into the school's curriculum.



This week, Michigan, Massachusetts, Vermont, Rhode Island, and Washington state Envirothon teams will face off to determine who will advance to the international NCF-Envirothon competition. Check back next week for more results!

Recognize a Friend of NACD!

[Friends of NACD](#) are individuals who are committed to the conservation of America's natural resources. You can now honor someone you know who has contributed to advancing the field of conservation by completing a memorial or honorarium membership form, [available here](#).

Contact Us

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At the beginning of the project, the Legacy City Farm was an encyclopedia of invasive species. Now cleared of invasives and possibly contaminated soil, the Farm's first crop of lettuce is thriving (see photo below). The design plan for the Farm (pictured above) works with the natural features of the site with the crops planted on the contour, roads on the ridges, and buffers in the floodplain.



- NCF-Envirothon - July 23 - 29, 2017
- South Central Region Meeting - August 2 - 4, 2017
- Southeast Region Meeting - August 6 - 9, 2017
- Northeast Region Meeting - August 13 - 15, 2017
- Pacific-Southwest Region Meeting - September 11 - 14, 2017

Need to update your contact information or change your subscription preferences? [Click here](#) to manage your profile.

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National Association of
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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS The NACD eResource

Weekly News Briefs from NACD

NACD RESPONDS TO PRESIDENT'S FY18 BUDGET REQUEST

In a [press release](#) today, NACD asked Congress to reject President Donald Trump's Fiscal Year 2018 budget request that proposes more than \$5 billion in cuts over 10 years to farm bill conservation programs.

For FY18 specifically, the president's request includes a substantial \$350 million cut to mandatory funding for the popular Environmental Quality Incentives Program and a \$91 million cut to USDA's Conservation Technical Assistance program – the very lifeblood of voluntary conservation in the United States.



The president has also requested to cut the Forest Service's State and Private Forestry program by 46 percent (\$98 million) and completely eliminate the Environmental Protection Agency's Section 319 grant program, which helps states curb non-point pollution sources like stormwater runoff. Additionally, the budget would eliminate the Watershed Operations and Small

Office closed Monday for Memorial Day

NACD offices will be closed on Monday, May 29 in observance of Memorial Day.

Now open: Registration for CTIC's summer conservation tour

The Conservation Technology Information Center (CTIC) has opened registration for its 10th annual Conservation in Action Tour to be held September 5-6 in West Lafayette, Indiana. The 2017 tour will include four farm stops, the last of which will be Purdue University Dairy, a commercial dairy that has closed the loop on manure management. You can register to attend online at www.ctic.org/CIA_Tours or by phone at (765) 494-9555.

Two months until international Envirothon competition

This week, Pennsylvania, New Hampshire, New York, Maine, and Manitoba will be hosting their state Envirothon competitions to determine which teams will advance to the international competition in Emmitsburg,

Watershed Rehabilitation programs, which help local communities improve water quality, control erosion, and restore ailing infrastructure.

“We can provide a better approach to conservation than this budget proposal,” NACD CEO Jeremy Peters said. “NACD will work tirelessly to educate our lawmakers on Capitol Hill about the critical importance of locally-led conservation, so come fall, they’ll do what’s right by American taxpayers and our country’s natural resources.”

PERDUE SPEAKS TO USDA REORGANIZATION; NACD RESPONDS

Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue explained to House lawmakers last week how the USDA’s reorganization will and will not affect NRCS operations. Before House Agriculture Committee members in [a hearing on May 17](#), the secretary testified that NRCS’ personnel and mission won’t change, but “some locations (of field offices) might change from an economy of scale perspective.”

He also said that USDA is “trying to bring the family together to better serve the customer,” so that when customers walk into any USDA office, they’re able to sign-up for a NRCS program and the Farm Service Agency’s (FSA) Conservation Reserve Program during the same visit.

NACD is developing comments to submit to USDA regarding the proposed reorganization and we will continue communicating any developments on this topic through eResource and other official channels as they occur.

Do you have questions or concerns about the proposed reorganization? Please contact NACD's Director of Government Affairs Coleman Garrison at coleman-garrison@nacdnet.org.

DEADLINE FOR JULY BOOT CAMP SESSION TOMORROW

Maryland, on July 23. They’ll be joined by the winning teams from Coventry High School in Rhode Island (pictured below), Lexington High School in Massachusetts, North Harrison High School in Indiana, and Fort Defiance High School in Virginia. A list of state and provincial winning teams is available on the NCF-Envirothon website [here](#).



If you’re interested in providing support and coordination to state, provincial, and the international Envirothon programs, consider applying for the NCF-Envirothon program manager position. The full job description is available on [NACD’s website](#). Interested candidates should email their cover letter and resume to hr@nacdnet.org by COB May 30, 2017.

Have you checked our Marketplace lately?



The deadline for state associations to submit district employee participant information to NACD for the July session (July 11 to July 27) of Conservation Planning Boot Camp is tomorrow, May 24.

NRCS Conservation Planning Boot Camp is a three-week intensive training course that thanks to an agreement between NACD and NRCS, conservation district technical employees are welcome to attend for free. If you are interested in participating in Boot Camp, [visit our website](#) to learn more about eligibility and prerequisites, and to access participant resources. To read past participant testimonials, check out pages 19 through 21 of the [most recent edition of The Resource](#).

DID YOU BOOK YOUR STAY FOR NACD'S SUMMER MEETING? HAVE YOU THOUGHT UP A THEME FOR OUR ANNUAL MEETING IN NASHVILLE?

There's less than a month left to secure your hotel room for the Summer Conservation Forum and Tour in Altoona, Iowa, from July 15 to 19. [Visit our summer meeting page](#) to reserve your room, complete your registration, and view the tentative agenda. Early bird registration closes on June 16, so there are only a few weeks left to lock in these discounted prices.



This summer you can shop for custom clothing, nametags and plaques, service pins, medallions, and so much more on [NACD's website](#). In addition to a wide selection of gifts (have you ordered your limited edition [We All Need Trees t-shirt](#) yet?), we also offer free downloadable educational materials that your conservation district is welcome to share with local schools and other partners. If you have any Marketplace-specific questions, do not hesitate to email us at stewardship@nacdnet.org.

Recognize a Friend of NACD!

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If you have a theme suggestion for our 2018 Annual Meeting in Nashville, [submit it here!](#) You have until next Tuesday, May 30 to enter your theme ideas and logo concepts. The winning entry will receive \$250 toward their annual meeting registration.

[email us](#)

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The NACD eResource

Weekly news briefs from the National Association of Conservation Districts

NACD'S SUMMER MEETING IS APPROACHING... WHICH CDI TOUR ARE YOU ATTENDING THIS JULY?



NACD and the Conservation Districts of Iowa (CDI) will be jointly hosting the 2017 Conservation Forum and Tour from July 15 to 18 at the Prairie Meadows Hotel in Altoona, Iowa. [You can visit NACD's website](#) to register, read through the tentative meeting agenda, and reserve your hotel room at NACD's special discounted rate of \$107 per night. On Tuesday – the last day of the meeting – attendees will have the choice of going on one of two all-day conservation tours. Which one will you be on?

Join us in welcoming our summer intern, Elijah Olomoniyi!



Hello, my name is Elijah Olomoniyi and I am interning with NACD this summer. I am originally from Chicago, Illinois, and a current student at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. I am transitioning into my fourth year of study at the college of Agriculture, Consumer, and Environmental Sciences (ACES) where I major in public policy and law. I look forward to working with NACD this summer while gaining valuable career experience along the way.

The countdown to Envirothon is on!

The international NCF-Envirothon competition is less than two months away, and only a few



The Water Quality Tour will start with a visit to the third-fastest-growing city in the U.S. – Ankeny, Iowa – where [Polk County SWCD](#) will introduce tour goers to different urban conservation water quality practices in residential and city park settings.

The next stop is Iowa's Land Improvement Contractors Farm in Melbourne, where attendees will learn about Iowa's extensive water quality monitoring efforts, including the Iowa Soybean Association's most extensive tile monitoring program in the nation and Conservation Districts of Iowa's [retainN program](#). Lunch, courtesy of the Iowa Pork Producers Association, will follow.

After fueling up, the tour bus will drive through Iowa State University's 1,900-acre campus in Ames, and make a stop at the Alluvial Brewing Company, the fourth-best college town brewery in the country.



On the Soil Health Tour, attendees will start their trip with a visit to the Badger Creek Watershed Lake Project in Madison County. In addition to learning about "[prairie STRIPS](#)," a practice unique to Iowa that integrates

state and provincial competitions – Ontario, Ohio, Maryland, and California - remain to determine which teams will represent them in Maryland this July 23 – 29. [Click here for a list](#) of state and provincial competition winners.

The 34th Pennsylvania Envirothon competition was held at the University of Pittsburgh last week, with teams from 64 of the state's 67 counties participating. Penncrest High School's team (pictured below) was declared the winner. Joining them in Maryland for the international competition will be the Mount Academy team from New York and the [Logos Charter School team from Oregon](#).



NACD is seeking a part-time NCF-Envirothon Program Manager to provide support and coordination for state, provincial, and the international Envirothon programs. The full job description is available on [NACD's website](#). Interested candidates should email their cover letter and resume to hr@nacdnet.org by the end of today, May 30.

Theme submission deadline is today!

Help us plan for our [2018 NACD Annual Meeting](#) in Nashville (January 27 – 31) by submitting a creative suggestion or two for the meeting's theme. Whoever submits the winning theme for the

restored prairie into crop fields, tour goers will hear how Iowa is fighting Palmer Amaranth and how the [home district](#) of NACD First Vice President Tim Palmer is leveraging federal funds for conservation with state funding.

Tourees will then head to Keller Brick Barn in Dallas County – the fifth-fastest-growing county in the nation – for lunch courtesy of the Iowa Cattleman's Association and a presentation from the [Dallas County SWCD](#). Two more field stops, hosted by the [Polk County SWCD](#) and the Bruce Carney family, will demonstrate the importance of soil health in suburban and rural settings.

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD ON USDA'S REORGANIZATION

As you know, on May 11, USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue [announced a planned reorganization](#) of USDA's mission areas that would put NRCS under the same mission area as the Farm Service Agency and the Risk Management Agency. The plan also requires the NRCS chief and FSA administrator to submit a report within 60 days on how NRCS and FSA office locations and administrative functions may be streamlined to improve customer service.

The reorganization plan is open to public comment through June 14, and while NACD is in the process of developing our own comments, it's important for USDA to hear your thoughts or concerns about this plan directly. You can find more information on how to submit your comments by [going here](#).

DID YOU KNOW?

Interesting Facts & Anecdotes
from your District Operations and Member Services Committee



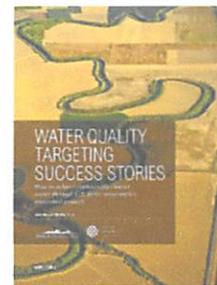
As part of a six-month series on district operations, the Did You Know? monthly feature in eResource will highlight chapters of the NACD District Outlook Task Force report: "Blueprint for Locally-Led Conservation – A Strategy for District Success and Sustainability" ([available here](#) on our website). **This month's chapter tackles business plans.**

2018 Annual Meeting will be awarded \$250 toward their registration cost. To submit a suggested theme idea, please [fill out this form](#). The deadline for entries is today, May 30.

Call for applications: SHI soil health grants

To populate its Soil Health Research Landscape Tool – an electronic library of peer-reviewed literature and scientific resources related to soil health – the Soil Health Institute is granting awards for the development of soil health literature, websites, databases, and other scientific resources. The deadline for application submission is June 23 at 11:59pm EDT; more information is [available here](#).

AFT, WRI release comprehensive case studies on targeted water quality work



Last Wednesday, American Farmland Trust and the World Resources Institute released a new report, "[Water Quality Targeting Success Stories](#)." This report, based on five years of research, examines six targeted, watershed-scale projects conducted in California, Oklahoma, Iowa, Wisconsin, and Indiana in which conservation practices were used to successfully improve water quality. The report finds that relying on local conservation districts, among other factors, is

A business plan is a living blueprint that guides an organization's priorities and activities. It also incorporates market research and resource identification with implementation strategies for achieving growth and sustainability objectives. These plans typically include the following three components: analysis, strategic decision-making, and the plan itself.

[Click here](#) to read today's Did You Know? in full on NACD's blog.

FOR YOUR CALENDAR: 'HELPING PEOPLE HELP POLLINATORS' WEBINAR



Learn what your district can do to boost pollinator habitat on the next NACD Urban and Community Conservation webinar, scheduled for noon-1:00pm Eastern time on June 15.

Nancy Adamson, a pollinator conservation specialist for the [Xerces Society](#), will speak to the value of pollinators, the challenges they face, and what resources individuals and communities can use to protect them. Holly Anderson, the urban conservationist for the Pulaski Conservation District in Arkansas, will share how the district used funding and technical assistance for school pollinator gardens and activities.

key to project success.

The report, as well as a webinar on the report's findings, is [available on AFT's website](#).

Contact Us

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- NACD Summer Conservation Forum and Tour - July 15 - 18, 2017
- NCF-Envirothon - July 23 - 29, 2017
- South Central Region Meeting - August 2 - 4, 2017
- Southeast Region Meeting - August 6 - 9, 2017
- Northeast Region Meeting - August 13 - 15, 2017
- Pacific-Southwest Region Meeting - September 11 - 14, 2017

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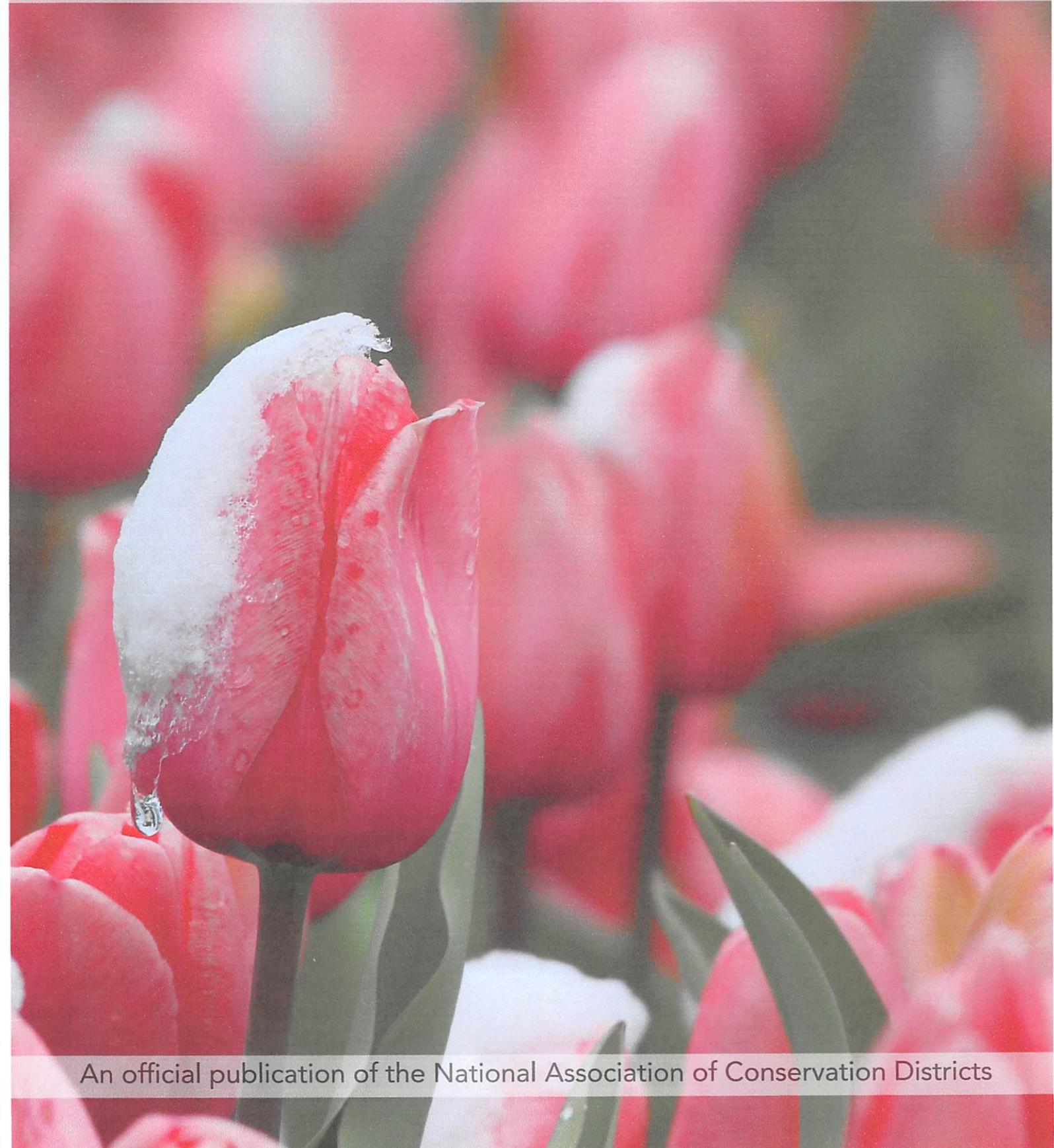


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The
Spring 2017

Resource



An official publication of the National Association of Conservation Districts

The Resource

THE RESOURCE

SPRING 2017

The Resource is the official quarterly publication of the National Association of Conservation Districts.

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About the cover:

"Brrrr!" was submitted to the 2016 NACD Photo Contest by Daniel O'Leary of Wheeling, West Virginia.

If you're interested in competing in the 2017 NACD Photo Contest, [click here](#) for more information and for rules and requirements.

The Resource

IN THIS ISSUE



4. President's Perspective
NACD President Brent Van Dyke
5. CEO's Column
NACD CEO Jeremy Peters

Extended Reports

6. The critical importance of the Conservation Technical Assistance Program
10. Partners in Conservation - Conservation Districts of Iowa
12. NACD Recaps and Updates: 2017 Annual Meeting in Denver

NACD on the Issues

16. CEO Jeremy Peters told House lawmakers what's needed in the upcoming farm bill
16. NACD sent, submitted, and published more than 50 letters, comments, and press releases in the last year
16. More than 150 district officials, leaders waved the conservation flag on Capitol Hill
17. NACD launched a grassroots advocacy initiative in March to engage and educate districts, partners, and the public on Conservation Technical Assistance

NACD in Action

18. NACD's newest RPG publishes first success story
19. Boot Camp provides technical training free of charge to district employees
22. Envirothon season is upon us
24. Stewardship Week celebration at USDA's Farmers Market
25. Join NACD and CDI for our Summer Conservation Forum and Tour this July!

Districts at Work

26. Michigan district hosts events on Lake Erie to educate farmers about water quality practices
28. South Carolina district uses innovative tool to explain watershed dynamics
30. Soil Health Champion Spotlight: David Daigle of Louisiana

Another Perspective

32. Mark Slavens, The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company

Who We Are

34. Faces of NACD





Brent Van Dyke

President
National Association of
Conservation Districts

Voluntary, incentive-based conservation works

Having the opportunity to work and travel throughout Eastern Europe has given me a firsthand look at how the rest of the world produces food and fiber. Things are different in this part of the world, without a doubt, but there are similarities too.

Recently, I visited the world's largest freshwater lake – Lake Baikal – in Siberia. This lake is simply amazing; it holds roughly 20 percent of the earth's unfrozen fresh water, and its depths reach over 5,300 feet. Lake Baikal, and other waterbodies in this part of the world like the Black Sea and Caspian Sea – as different as they might seem from what we know – have characteristics in common with our Great Lakes and Mississippi River. Like ours at home, waters halfway across the globe are threatened each day by runoff containing pesticides, heavy metals, fertilizers, and silt.

In Eastern Europe, polluted waterbodies are a considerable problem with many causes. I have seen with my own eyes locals washing out pesticide containers in rivers and other tributaries. I have witnessed the dumping of livestock carcasses into waterways, and raw sewage draining into pristine rivers that flow from the Caucasus Mountains.

Throughout Russia and the former Soviet Union, I have seen thousands and thousands of acres of topsoil being washed away; productive black earth that once fed millions and millions of people, leaving the land and disappearing forever.

As I compare the United States to Eastern Europe, I see stark contrasts in how governments have addressed natural resource concerns. One governance model has embraced voluntary-based, conservation assistance programs, where producers are given the resources – and provided the expertise – they need to do the right thing by our nation's soil and water. The other, albeit of a drastically different economic and social perspective, imposes mandates that too often go unheeded.

I have hope, though, that with a voluntary, incentive-based conservation model, Eastern Europeans would be better able to conserve and protect their natural resources.

Incentive-based and partnership-rich conservation work is America's example of how citizens around the world can repair damaged land and polluted waters for pennies on the dollar. I believe it is our duty as conservationists to spread the good word about the importance of what we do across this nation, and beyond. Our example lights the way, whether we recognize it or not.

Our grassroots run deep

Several years ago at a meeting of the Soil Renaissance in Oklahoma City, I met Jim Richardson, a native Kansan and National Geographic photojournalist who has spent his career traveling the world capturing images of soils, food, and agriculture. If you were at NACD's 2016 Annual Meeting in Reno, you saw Mr. Richardson's work in person. One of the lasting images in my mind from Mr. Richardson's presentation was the depth to which native prairie grasses' intricate root systems extend into the earth – sometimes up to fourteen feet – preventing erosion, increasing organic matter, and improving overall soil health.

NACD's grassroots run deep, too. The 17,000 men and women who serve as elected officials on conservation district boards hold important roles in their communities, their states, and the nation. This credible and strong grassroots presence can be especially powerful when we, as a national organization, advocate with one voice for sound conservation policy and critical funding for conservation programs.

Our grassroots voice is needed today more than ever. As the political pendulum swings with the new administration, we find ourselves shifting from addressing regulatory concerns to facing severe budgetary pressure on important funding priorities like Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA). Some organizations are even advocating to completely defund CTA, leaving landowners in the cold for important services like conservation planning or shifting those responsibilities to the private sector.

We know from experience that sound, science-based conservation planning and financial assistance delivered through our local, state, and federal conservation delivery system works. And while fiscal responsibility is an important goal, stripping funds from programs like CTA would be penny wise but pound foolish. Right now, CTA is helping landowners proactively plan and conserve natural resources in ways that will prevent the need for more expensive methods of restoring depleted soils, reducing erosion, or addressing impaired water quality in the future.

We need your voice, along with every one of our 17,000 district supervisors' voices, to educate members of Congress, their staff, and other stakeholders in your community. Like native prairie grass, our grassroots run deep, and your voice as elected district officials carries with it tremendous credibility – your impressive work at the local level and the depth of your experience and expertise are proof.

If you haven't already, visit [NACD's grassroots advocacy website](#) to learn how you can take action today. Then, we ask that you help NACD spread the word by engaging your representatives and reaching out to your friends, family, and community with relevant and useful content about conservation. Every time your voice is heard, you make a difference for voluntary conservation.



Jeremy Peters

Chief Executive Officer
National Association of
Conservation Districts

The critical importance of the Conservation Technical Assistance Program

Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA) – the USDA program, not the noun – is truly the lifeblood of voluntary conservation in the United States. Without it, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) wouldn't have the funds to employ and train over 10,000 agency conservation planners and technicians, much less enter into hundreds of cooperative or contribution agreements with conservation districts and state associations each year to provide services to millions of cooperating landowners across the country.

"For us in Minnesota, one of the best things about NRCS contribution and cooperative agreements has been the flexibility they give us to leverage federal dollars with state and local resources," said LeAnn Buck, executive director of the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD).

“
One of the best things about NRCS contribution and cooperative agreements has been the flexibility they give us to leverage federal dollars with state and local resources.

- LeAnn Buck, Minnesota



Certified conservation planners and NRCS cooperative and contribution agreements help conservation districts deliver practical, site-specific solutions based on sound science and proven research directly to landowners. Here are two examples from Minnesota:

1. A contribution agreement between NRCS and the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources allowed the agencies to hire a shared technical training coordinator to develop and implement Minnesota's Technical Training and Certification Strategy for Conservation Delivery.

Together, the partners created a coordinated technical training program and credentialing process for conservation district professionals in engineering and ecological practices and conservation planning. The effort now provides the state with highly skilled and credentialed conservation professionals ready and able to meet the evolving conservation needs in Minnesota.

2. MASWCD entered into a cooperative agreement with NRCS to enhance the policy and processes associated with Local Working Groups (LWG) and Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Comprehensive Local Water Management Plans. The purpose was to ensure the assessment and identification of local and state natural resource priorities for federal, state, and local conservation programs and implementation activities. Additional outreach training and locally developed materials were also made available to Minnesota's conservation districts.

"Our conservation partnerships have leveraged state funds with federal funds and vice versa for a variety of conservation and restoration projects over the years. Most recently, the state legislature has been prioritizing projects where conservation practices are being applied in targeted and measurable ways to improve water quality outcomes. NRCS contribution and cooperative agreements have helped us do just that."

Many conservation districts that are co-located with NRCS field offices or have access to USDA equipment and training may not be aware that they are directly benefiting from CTA – but they are. CTA allows NRCS to procure field office space, vehicles, computers, and equipment that strengthens and promotes on-the-ground conservation across the country and throughout the conservation delivery system.

Most importantly, CTA is what makes conservation planning possible. Almost all of NRCS conservation plans developed with and for landowners are accomplished with CTA funding – as are the majority of training programs for conservation service and planning providers, including technical conservation district staff. For landowners seeking to participate in a federal voluntary conservation program, having a conservation plan developed by a certified conservation planner is often the first step.

"Over the past 20 years, SDACD and South Dakota's conservation districts continue to partner with NRCS to use cooperative and contribution agreement funds in concert with EPA 319 non-point source projects. By doing so, we have amplified our efforts and made demonstrable improvements to key watersheds in the state," said Angela Ehlers, executive director for the South Dakota Association of Conservation Districts (SDACD).

"At one point, SDACD hired 11 resource man-

Conservation plans are key

Conservation plans are living documents developed confidentially and one-on-one between a local conservation technician and a landowner. They include recommendations for site-specific conservation practices and are tailor-made to meet a landowner's specific conservation needs and stewardship goals. Combined into a system, the right conservation practices produce on-farm results, like higher yields and more efficient use of inputs, in addition to off-farm public benefits, such as clean water, safe air, and healthy plant and animal populations.

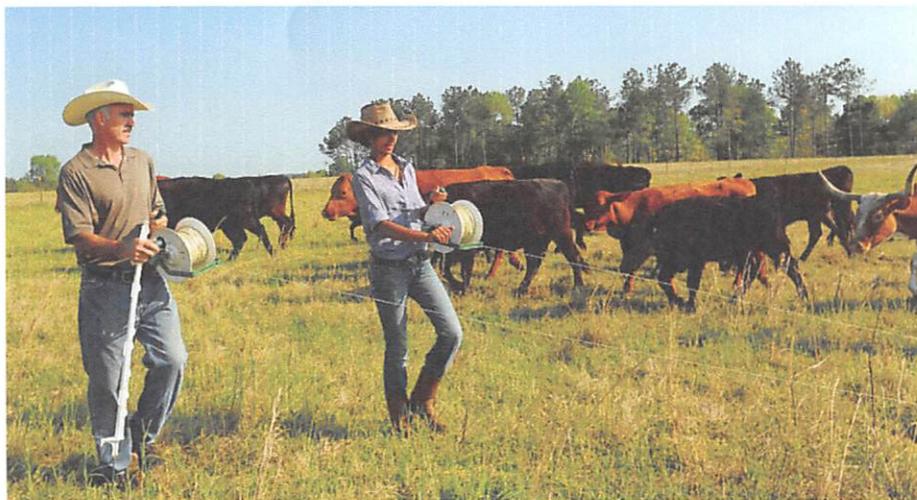
agement specialists to work with producers and coordinate conservation delivery focused on nutrient management and soil quality," Ehlers continued. "As part of this effort, we have been able to remove at least one water body from the TMDL 303d list in South Dakota (the Bad River, a tributary of the Missouri). Our current efforts are focused on the eastern tributaries to the Missouri, which also supply drinking water to almost two-thirds of our state population."

CTA funds are commonly allocated through contribution agreements with individual conservation districts. According to Jennifer Boyle Warner, executive director of the Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (IASWCD), over 75 districts in her state have agreements with NRCS.

"In practice, these agreements allow district staff to better understand landowner needs and address natural resource concerns quickly, which in turn helps to free up time for NRCS district conservationists to provide technical assistance to more landowners."

At the state level in Indiana, contribution agreements have paid for a conservation agronomist, soil health manager, speakers for field days, and other critical outreach activities, Boyle Warner said.

(continued on next page)



At the national level, there's been a concerted effort to raise awareness around the many environmental, economic, and social benefits CTA and conservation planning provides. NACD has teamed up with NRCS, the National Association of State Conservation Agencies (NASCA), the National Association of Resource Conservation and Development Councils, and the National Conservation District Employees Association to form the National Conservation Planning Partnership (NCPP). The NCPP is focused on reinvigorating conservation planning and expanding capacity for delivery of sound, science-based technical assistance.

Mike Brown, executive director of NASCA and co-chair of NCPP, said "Conservation planning is foundational to all of the conservation delivery we provide on private lands."

"Our core conservation partners, through the NCPP, are ensuring that we provide the most practical, advanced, and useful technical assistance available," Brown continued. "The conser-

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In practice, these agreements allow district staff to better understand landowner needs and address natural resource concerns quickly, which in turn helps to free up time for NRCS district conservationists to provide technical assistance to more landowners.

- Jennifer Boyle Warner, Indiana



vation plans we develop with our nation's farmers, ranchers, and landowners will help them implement their stewardship goals and sustain our precious natural resources."

NACD is also working to raise awareness through a newly created CTA Task Force. The task force is developing strategies to educate conservation district supervisors, as well as the general public, about the importance of voluntary and incentive-based conservation programs.

"Without voluntary, incentive-based conservation programs, Americans won't have the resources or assistance they need to keep our nation's soils healthy, our water clean, and our wildlife abundant," said Michael Crowder, CTA Task Force chairman and NACD's second vice president.

NACD is leading the advocacy charge on Capitol Hill for robust CTA funding. This March, more than 150 conservation district leaders came to Washington, D.C., and walked the halls of Congress educating legislators on how important CTA is to their districts' operations. NACD also launched a grassroots campaign to engage our 17,000 supervisors in contacting their members of Congress in support of CTA.

If you are interested in supporting voluntary conservation at the federal level – particularly funding for CTA – please visit NACD's grassroots advocacy page [on our website](#). There, you will find sample language, templates, and instructions for sending letters, plus a form to add your name to NACD's grassroots mailing list for future updates. Your voice counts; make it heard today!



Partners in Conservation

Conservation Districts of Iowa

A wildly successful partnership for Iowa's working lands

A partnership between Conservation Districts of Iowa (CDI), the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is leading the way for the state's soil and water conservation districts to improve wildlife habitat on Iowa's working lands.

Iowa is ranked next to last in the nation for public land acreage. With less than three percent of the state's land in public ownership, voluntary conservation on private lands is vital to protecting and restoring wildlife habitat in the state.

"Relationship building and one-on-one conservation planning with producers is critical to accomplishing this work," Clare Lindahl, CDI's executive director, said. "However, in recent years, the number of state and federal conservation staff charged with helping landowners implement conservation plans and practices has decreased dramatically."

State and federal conservation staff have been reduced by more than 25 percent over the past decade. Iowa's soil and water conservation districts have stepped up to fill the void. Not long ago, districts employed only a handful of staff but today employ well over 100 Iowans. As a result of their new partnership, CDI, local districts, NRCS, and DNR will hire an additional four private lands wildlife specialists and four private lands wetland easement team technicians.

Wildlife specialists provide conservation planning and implementation support to farmers and landowners with an emphasis on wildlife resources in agricultural landscapes. Wildlife specialists work one-on-one with landowners to develop wildlife plans and facilitate landowner participation in federal, state, and county programs by putting



Clare Lindahl is the executive director for the Conservation Districts of Iowa (CDI).

together proposals, creating maps, and developing seeding plans on the landowners' behalf.

Wetland easement team technicians provide on-site biological technical support to wetland restoration teams. The wetland easement team technicians serve a key role on Iowa NRCS wetland easement teams by providing direct assistance to the NRCS area easement specialist. This role includes coordinating appropriate Agricultural Conservation Easement Program - Wetland Reserve Easements application information for full wetland easement team planning sessions, compiling complete application packages (i.e. six-part folders), and evaluating management plans and activities, as well as compatible use authorizations. As needed, wetland easement team technicians compile legal documents, investigate drainage histories, compile historic imagery, and meet with landowners and local NRCS field office staff to make sure all restoration goals are considered.

Partners in Conservation

Conservation Districts of Iowa

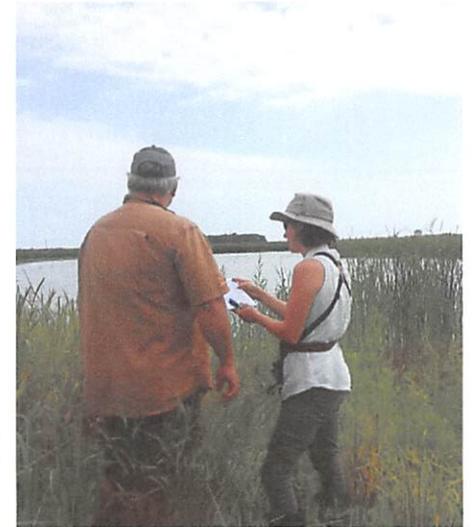
“Relationship building and one-on-one conservation planning with producers is critical to accomplishing this work.”

"As I spoke with partners about our year of work, it was very clear to me that we have hired eight people who are doing what they love, and Iowa's landscape and wildlife are reaping the benefits," Lindahl said. "Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much."

The partnership, which just celebrated its one-year anniversary with a two-day staff development retreat in February, has been "wildly" successful by leveraging everyone's unique strengths to accomplish individual and shared goals. The partnership allows for the targeting of NRCS programs to implement the DNR Iowa Wildlife Action Plan.

CDI serves as the nucleus of the partnership, coordinating all the partners' input on goal setting, action planning, and employee training needs. The state and federal partners provide staff with technical training and day-to-day guidance, the commissioners provide local knowledge and connections, and CDI focuses on professional development and providing staff with the newest tools and technologies.

In a recent survey conducted by CDI, state and federal staff working regularly with CDI employees said the partnership is "finding new and alternative means to accomplish the goal" and "has made relating and building relationships with producers easier."



CDI staff member Michelle Biodrowski takes time with a landowner to plan out his wildlife habitat objectives.

National Conservation Planning Partnership publishes guide

The National Conservation Planning Partnership has published a comprehensive guide on the importance and future of conservation planning in the United States.

You can read it on NACD's [Partners webpage](#) (under the first accordion option: "National Conservation Planning Partnership"). The publication is also available on [NRCS' website](#).

NACD Recaps and Updates



2017 Annual Meeting in Denver

NACD hosted more than 800 conservation leaders from across the nation in Denver for its 71st Annual Meeting. This year's meeting featured a [long list of VIP speakers](#), including Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper, Agriculture Commissioner Don Brown, Olympian Jenny Simpson, American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall, and Acting NRCS Chief Leonard Jordan. Documentarian Ben Masters (pictured above) – a young man with a profound talent for telling conservation stories – showed two of his most recent films: “[Unbranded](#)” and “[Selah: Water from Stone](#).”

More than 16 districts and conservation partners gave [presentations from our new Conservation Expo Stage](#) or as part of nine [breakout sessions](#), and farm broadcaster Brian Allmer of The BARN interviewed the 2017 NACD officer candidates from the Expo Stage. You can access the [ar-](#)

[chived footage](#) of those interviews and each of the annual meeting's general sessions on [Allmer's website](#).

Before the meeting's kick-off, NACD put on an inspirational session where the 2016 NACD poster and photo contest winners were announced. [Click here to see if someone from your conservation district or state took home a prize](#). NACD held an awards and appreciation banquet as well, where NACD's 2017 officer team and executive board were sworn in (see inset on next page) and several national honors were presented to conservation leaders (see page 14).

This year's Live Auction generated over \$86,000 – all of which supports NACD's education and outreach efforts. Thank you to our members and partners who donated, our auctioneer Johnny Regula, as well as our [sponsors](#) and those who bid on auction items. To see more photos from the 2017 annual meeting, head to [NACD's Flickr page](#).

NACD Recaps and Updates



Newly inducted executive board members (from left to right): Bill Thomas, South Central Region; Calvert Steuart, Northeast Region; Past President Lee McDaniel; Bevin Law, Northern Plains Region; and Ian Cunningham, North Central Region.



2017 Officer Team (from left to right): Second Vice President Michael Crowder of Washington; Secretary-Treasurer Kim LaFleur of Massachusetts; Past President Lee McDaniel of Maryland; President Brent Van Dyke of New Mexico; and First Vice President Tim Palmer of Iowa.

NACD Recaps and Updates



Acting NRCs Chief Leonard Jordan and then President Lee McDaniel presented the 2016 Earth Team Award to the Medina County Soil and Water Conservation District in Ohio. Accepting the award on the behalf of Medina SWCD was Terry Cosby, NRCs state conservationist for Ohio, and Kris Swartz, president of the Ohio Federation of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (OFSWCD).



The NACD President's Award was presented to Ronald Quitagua, the NACD board member representing Guam.



NACD's Distinguished Service award went to Bob Warner, NACD board member for Colorado.



The NACD/NRCS Olin Sims Conservation Leadership Award was presented by NRCs Acting Chief Leonard Jordan (far right) and then NACD President Lee McDaniel (far left) to Gary and Amy Cammack of Union Center, South Dakota. The Cammacks were nominated by Jeffrey Zimprich, South Dakota state conservationist.



The NACD Friend of Conservation Award was presented to Smithfield Foods. Bill Gill of Smithfield accepted the award on the company's behalf.

NACD on the Issues

CEO Jeremy Peters told House lawmakers what's needed in the upcoming farm bill

NACD CEO Jeremy Peters testified on behalf of the association before the House Agriculture Subcommittee on Conservation and Forestry in February. In his opening statement, Peters explained to the panel how conservation districts provide a crucial public service by offering on-the-ground conservation planning and tailored technical assistance to landowners.

You can read Peters' full testimony, as prepared for Lee McDaniel, NACD's immediate past president, [here in NACD's Newsroom](#). NACD also published a [press release](#) on Peters' testimony and a blog post on NACD's [nine farm bill principles](#).

NACD sent, submitted, and published more than 50 letters, comments, and press releases in the last year

NACD sent letters and submitted comments on the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) "Planning 2.0" rule and its management of wild horses in the West; the Fish and Wildlife Service's mitigation rule, as well as Endangered Species Act listings and delistings; proposed changes in the way estate taxes are assessed; and a host of other congressional and federal agency actions.

The association also spoke on behalf of conservation districts in dozens of media interviews and press releases throughout the last year on policy issues, partnerships, federal programming, and events. For a complete list, head to [NACD's Newsroom](#) and navigate between types of communications by clicking the tabs at the top of the page.

More than 150 district officials, leaders waved the conservation flag on Capitol Hill as part of NACD's annual Fly-In

This March, more than 150 conservation leaders and locally-elected conservation district officials joined NACD in Washington, D.C., for the national association's Spring Fly-In. Chairman Pat Roberts of the Senate Agriculture Committee told participants the morning of their Hill visits (pictured on opposite page) that "conservation districts are the perfect example where we see coordination in government at its best."

That evening, the group met at the Longworth House Office Building for a reception sponsored by the National Conservation District Employees Association and the National Watershed Coalition. There, Chairman Frank Lucas, R-Okla., and Ranking Member Marcia Fudge, D-Ohio, of the House Agriculture Subcommittee on Conservation and Forestry both spoke, highlighting the importance of conservation programs over the long-term and urging attendees to continue the good fight now and through the next farm bill negotiations.

Over the course of the fly-in, conservation district officials and other conservation leaders met with more than 140 congressional offices, stressing the need for adequate conservation technical assis-

NACD on the Issues



Senator Pat Roberts, R-Kan., chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee, addresses conservation leaders at NACD's Spring Fly-In legislative breakfast.

tance funding and the importance of farm bill conservation programs. [Click here to read their talking points](#), and [NACD's recommended Fiscal Year \(FY\) 2018 funding levels for conservation programs](#) housed under USDA, the Interior Department, and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

NACD launched a grassroots advocacy initiative in March to engage and educate districts, partners, and the public on Conservation Technical Assistance

NACD knows how crucial it is for your senators and representatives to hear from you on the issues important to conservation districts. To help you reach out to your members of Congress, NACD has created a [Grassroots Advocacy webpage](#) to provide our members and partners with letter and release templates, plus reference and contact information.

Right now, two issues are being highlighted as grassroots action items: (1) President Trump's FY18 budget proposal to cut 21 percent of the Agriculture Department, which funds the Conservation Technical Assistance Program responsible for NRCS infrastructure and operations, and (2) pending legislation in the House and Senate to repeal the SAM/DUNS requirement for NRCS cost-share assistance.

To subscribe to grassroots email alerts, scroll to the [bottom of the webpage](#) and submit your name and email address.

NACD's newest RPG publishes first success story

NACD established the Tribal Outreach and Partnership (TOP) Resource Policy Group (RPG) at the 2017 Annual Meeting in Denver to assist conservation districts across the country in reaching out to and partnering with tribes on conservation projects. Among the TOP RPG's main objectives is to promote successful outreach and partnership efforts on a national stage.

The RPG's first success story comes from Washington state, where the North Yakima Conservation District (NYCD) and the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation (Yakama Nation) collaborated to implement a stream restoration project on Ahtanum Creek, an important tributary to the Yakima River in central Washington.

Years before, the NYCD and Yakama Nation had worked separately with the same partner – La Salle High School – to improve fish habitat, correct fish passage barriers, and construct fish screens. Both parties – looking to expand their restoration activities – came together through this common partner to undertake the Ahtanum Creek project.

The Ahtanum Creek project included restoring in-stream habitat, reconnecting floodplains, stabilizing streambanks, establishing healthy riparian habitats, and developing off-stream livestock watering and livestock management fencing. Neither partner had the capacity to perform restoration at such a scale individually, but together, they were able to access funding for the in-stream work and coordinate permits for the project (through the Yakama Nation), as well as provide technical assistance to landowners (through NYCD).

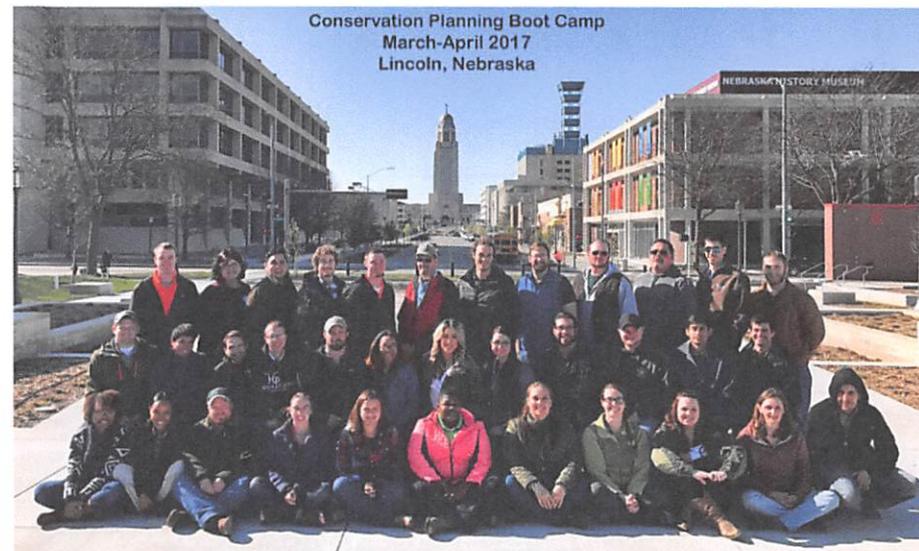
The partners worked together in defining the objectives and opportunities for the project, and prepared a comprehensive funding and technical assistance package. Leveraged resources for the



project totaled \$750,000 and included support from the USDA's Regional Conservation Partnership Program and state best management practices (BMPs) cost-share.

The key "lesson learned"? Both partners brought different strengths to this collaborative effort that enhanced their ability to get conservation on the ground. While the tribe and conservation district have different authorities, jurisdictions, priorities, and technical capacity, once these differences are recognized, understood, and respected, their strengths were brought together for the benefit of the community's natural resources.

If you have questions about this success story, contact Michael Tobin, the manager of NYCD, at Mike-tobin@conservewa.net. If you have a success story of your own that you would like to share, please get in touch with NACD Western Issues Specialist Jeff Burwell at jeff-burwell@nacdn.net, and consider using this guidance document – [Conservation District and Tribal Partnership Success Stories - Recommended Template](#) – for describing success narratives.



Boot Camp provides technical training free of charge to district employees

Are you a district employee interested in sharpening your conservation planning skills? Have you been looking to take part in a professional development course, but aren't sure it's worth your time?

Look no further – NACD has your answer. NRCS Conservation Planning Boot Camp is a free "meet-all-your-needs" training program for conservation and tribal district employees committed to mastering the delivery of modern conservation planning.

Last year, NACD entered into an agreement with NRCS that made district employee participation in the agency's Conservation Planning Boot

Camp (CPBC) a free opportunity. The three-week training takes place each month in Lincoln, Nebraska, and district participants are reimbursed for their participation expenses by NACD.

Each CPBC session includes a history of conservation planning and comprehensive training in developing, implementing, and evaluating conservation plans. Participants meet and network with other district and NRCS technical professionals, and once they return home, are able to provide conservation technical assistance that is consistent with a national standard.

Danny Sells, the executive director of the Tennessee Association of Conservation Districts, told NACD that all districts should strongly consider having their employees participate in CPBC. "Improving professional skills makes employees more valuable, districts more capable, and your conservation programs more impressive to funders," he said. *(continued on next page)*

NACD in Action

Are you or someone from your district interested in attending a CPBC session in 2017? The nomination process is simple and easy, and mostly left up to your state or territory association to complete. You can learn more about eligibility and prerequisites on [NACD's website](#).

The 2017 CPBC sessions are in full swing. Participants in the March CPBC session (pictured on the previous page) are back home in their local conservation districts and already putting their newly gained skills to use, said Sarah Wells, the district manager of Union County Conservation District in Elk Point, South Dakota.

"I just spent two-plus hours with a landowner having a thorough and quality conversation that I would have never been able to have without CPBC. Surely Camp attendance is helping with relationships already. I was incredibly blessed to attend Conservation Planning Boot Camp." "CPBC is no joke" though, Wells added. The coursework was "rigorous" and "fast-paced," and gave attendees a 360-degree look at the 9-Step NRCS Planning Process on rangeland, cropland, pasture, and forest from the classroom to the field.

"We worked in Toolkit, surveyed in the rain, sampled soil on our hands and knees in the wind, drew up maps, created and read soil inventory reports, exercised the electronic Field Office Technical Guide, created a conservation plan, conducted habitat evaluations, presented in front of our peers, and met and connected with decision makers," Wells said. "(We) were soundly schooled in the importance of making that 811 call and maintaining safety near utilities, and learned how to use measurement tools, assess stream bank erosion, and distinguish between micro-rill, rill, and gully erosion. The list keeps going and going!"

Another March participant, Erin Carviou, a conservation specialist with the Kewaunee County

“
Improving professional skills makes employees more valuable, districts more capable, and your conservation programs more impressive to funders.

- Danny Sells, Tennessee

Land and Water Conservation Department in Luxemburg, Wisconsin, said "the training was much more than I expected it to be and 100 percent worth the time away from the office."

"I am astounded at what we were taught and what our instructors left us to learn when we returned to our states," Carviou continued. "Thank you so much for the opportunity to attend this training, I will use what I have learned in my work nearly every day."

There are currently openings to attend the July, August, September, and October CPBC sessions. Session sign-up closes six weeks prior to the session start date, so it is important that you begin working with your state or territory association to finalize your nomination well before your preferred session is to take place.

More information about CPBC can be found on the [NACD website](#). Session start and end dates, as well as details about participation and reimbursement can be found there. You may also contact Phylis Vandevere, NACD's CPBC project coordinator and Southeast Region representative, at phylis-vandevere@nacdn.net, with questions.

NACD in Action



“

We worked in Toolkit, surveyed in the rain, sampled soil on our hands and knees in the wind, drew up maps, created and read soil inventory reports, exercised the electronic Field Office Technical Guide, created a conservation plan, conducted habitat evaluations, presented in front of our peers, and met and connected with decision makers.

- Sarah Wells, South Dakota



Envirothon season is upon us!

After countless hours of studying, training, practicing, and competing in local competitions, high school Envirothon teams from across North America are testing their skills at the next level.

The winning teams at each of the 45 state and nine provincial Envirothon competitions held this year will progress to the international NCF-Envirothon this summer.

NCF-Envirothon is an annual event put on by the National Conservation Foundation (NCF), where student competitors showcase their oratory skills and practical knowledge in four areas of natural resource science and management: soils/land use, aquatic ecology, forestry, and wildlife. Participants will also be quizzed on agricultural soil and water conservation stewardship – the fifth topic of interest for 2017. This year, the international competition will be held at Mount Saint Mary's University in Emmitsburg, Maryland, from July 23 to 29.

As of press time, the following teams earned their opportunity to compete at the international level:

Alabama	Bob Jones High School
Arizona	Tri-City College Prep School
Arkansas	Marshall High School Team A
Chongqing, China	Chongqing Nankai High School
Colorado	Woodland Park High School
Delaware	Charter School of Wilmington Team A
Florida	Academy of Environmental Science
Idaho	Skyline High School
Indiana	Indiana Academy
Iowa	Southwest Valley FFA
Mississippi	Oxford High School
Montana	Helena High School
Nebraska	Concordia High School
New Mexico	Hot Springs High School
North Carolina	High Rock Mighty Oaks Homeschool Team
North Dakota	Bismarck High School Team #1
Oklahoma	Ninnekah High School
Prince Edward Island	Three Oaks High School
South Carolina	Spartanburg High School Team A
South Dakota	Rapid City FFA Team
Texas	Academy of Science and Technology
Utah	Sky View High School
West Virginia	Moorefield High School Gold Team
Wisconsin	Island City Academy

For more information about the NCF-Envirothon event or the Envirothon program, visit www.envirothon.org.



Pictured clockwise from top: Texas' Academy of Science and Technology Team; Wisconsin's Island City Academy Team; Colorado's Woodland Park High School Team; Oklahoma's Ninnekah High School Team; and bottom row: Delaware's Charter School of Wilmington Team A.

If you'd like to share your Envirothon story with NACD, please contact Director of Development Melisa Augusto at melisa-augusto@nacdnet.org.

NACD in Action

Stewardship Week celebration at USDA's Farmers Market

The opening day of the USDA Farmers Market brought tourists and locals alike to the People's Garden on Friday, May 5, including upwards of 100 people who stopped by NACD's Stewardship Week tent. Those who visited NACD's booth were quizzed on soil health and got to meet a very special guest from NRCS – mascot Sammy Soil (pictured, top right). The winner of the quiz was awarded with a set of NACD "Healthy Soils Are Full of Life!" materials, while the rest of the visitors received zinnia planter kits and customized wristbands.

NACD wasn't the only group celebrating - Stewardship Week celebrations were held across the country. In Texas, the Atascosa County SWCD held an educational luncheon for local ministers, where they distributed soil stewardship materials for the county congregations and their county judge signed a soil stewardship proclamation. Noble SWCD in Caldwell, Ohio, created public service announcements about Stewardship Week that were played on local radio stations. Boone County CD in Arkansas distributed pine tree seedlings to third graders and sunflower seeds to second graders in every school in the county.

Since NACD established Stewardship Week in 1955, the event has grown to be one of the world's largest conservation-related observances. This year's theme – "Healthy Soils are Full of Life!" – celebrated the importance of conservation from the ground up.



NACD and the Conservation Districts of Iowa (CDI) will be jointly hosting the 2017 Summer Conservation Forum and Tour from July 15 - 18 at the Prairie Meadows Hotel in Altoona, Iowa.



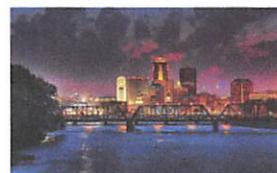
NACD and the Conservation Districts of Iowa are hosting the 2017 Summer Conservation Forum and Tour with the Iowa SWCD Commissioners Annual Conference and Business Meeting this July in Altoona, Iowa.

We have an action-packed agenda planned for you that you can take a look through [on our website](#). You'll see that some activities and meetings are labeled as "NACD," "Iowa," or "Joint." These event classifications will make drafting your personal itinerary for the meeting a cinch! If you have any questions though, we can help you. Simply email events@nacdn.net.

Registering to attend the meeting is easy – [just click here](#) – and [head to our website](#) to find information on how to book your hotel room at the Prairie Meadows Conference Center with NACD's special discount price of \$107 a night.

MONDAY, JULY 17

A Stroll Through Des Moines Guest Tour – Visit popular Des Moines attractions on this full-day tour.



TUESDAY, JULY 18

Water Quality Tour – A full-day tour of the urban conservation water quality practices being used in residential and urban settings. Attendees will see firsthand how water quality conservation practices straight from Iowa's Nutrient Reduction Strategy playbook are being put to use on a working farm. Participants will also be given a demonstration of Iowa water quality monitoring programs, in addition to an Iowa lunch, an Iowa-made beverage tasting, and a cultural visit.



TUESDAY, JULY 18

Soil Health Tour – A full-day tour of soil conservation practices at work. Attendees will receive a demonstration of Iowa soil health monitoring and education programs, as well as an Iowa lunch, Iowa-made beverage tasting, and a cultural visit.



Districts at Work

Michigan district hosts events on Lake Erie to educate farmers about water quality practices

The Great Lakes span more than 750 miles through the United States and Canada, providing water for human consumption, transportation and trade, electricity generation, recreation, and a host of other benefits. This freshwater system makes up 84 percent of North America's surface freshwater and 21 percent of the world's supply. Maintaining the health of these critical waterbodies weighs heavy on conservation districts in the Great Lakes Basin, including the Lenawee Conservation District in south central Michigan.

Lenawee County is one of several counties in northeast Indiana, northwest Ohio, and southern Michigan that falls within the 7-million-acre Western Lake Erie Basin (WLEB). The main culprit behind impaired water quality in Lake Erie is harmful algal blooms (HABs), which are a combined result of increased levels of nutrient runoff and high precipitation events.

The Lenawee Conservation District, along with other districts in the region, is focused on working with local landowners to help improve the water quality of the streams and rivers that feed into Lake Erie by reducing nutrient runoff from farming operations.

Back in 2011, district employee Amy Gilhouse began taking local farmers to Lake Erie conferences to learn more about current and emerging water quality issues facing the lake and how farmers can help. Gilhouse has since established a series of outreach events for farmers and district partners – called the “[Fields to the Great Lakes Events](#).”



In 2017, these events will include “Tall Ship Sail Workshops” and “Conservation Practices Day Conferences.” The Tall Ship Sail Workshops will be held in late-August 2017 and include a tour of the National Museum of the Great Lakes and a seminar on water quality aboard an 80-foot wooden schooner. The Conservation Practices Day Conferences, to be held in August and September 2017, give farmers and other agriculture stakeholders an in-depth look at the science behind HABs with a tour of a water quality lab.

Folks working with the [Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program \(MAEAP\)](#) and the [4R Nutrient Stewardship Program](#), as well as guest speakers from the Farm Bureau and NRCS, all come together at these events to help leaders in agriculture understand the ways they can make a positive difference.

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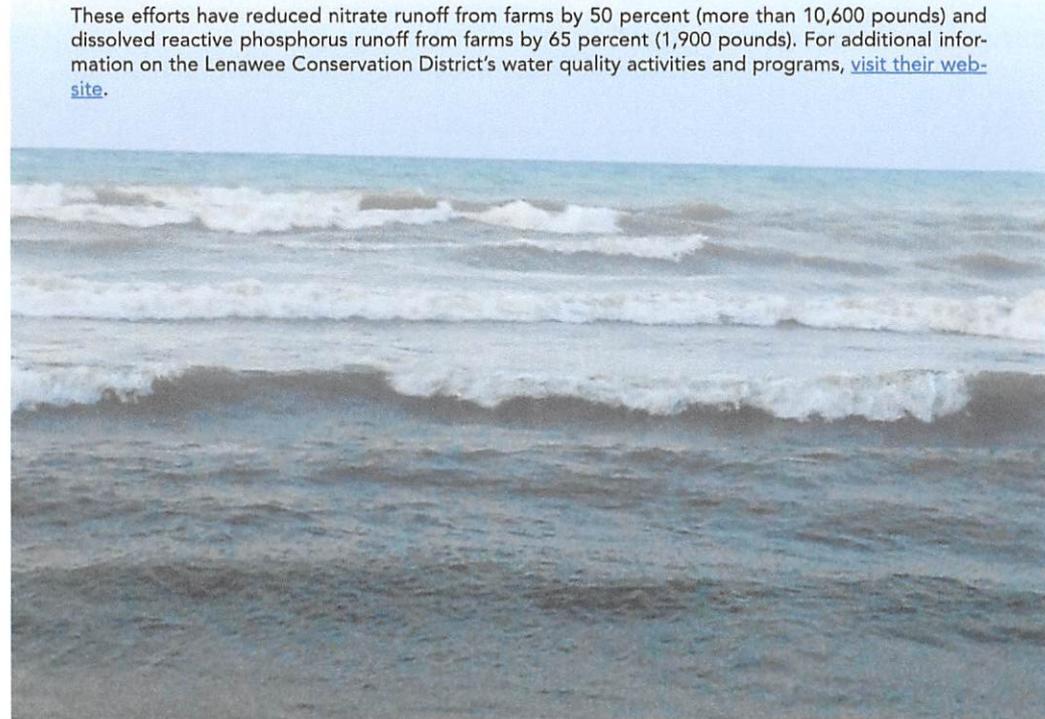
Districts at Work

Gilhouse says the most common comment she receives from farmer participants about these events is that their perspectives have changed, and that they would like to come back to another event and bring a farmer friend or neighbor with them.

In 2013, farmers who participated in the Fields to the Great Lakes Events worked with the Lenawee Conservation District to form a Farmer Advisory Committee. With over 100 farming members, the committee met twice a year to promote farmer engagement on WLEB issues and in Fields to the Great Lakes Events. In 2016, the Erb Family Foundation brought in additional funding to expand this effort, and as a result, the [Farmer-Led Watershed Conservation Group](#) of the WLEB was created.

These events are just a part of the Lenawee Conservation District's systems approach to addressing the high levels of nitrates and phosphorus impacting the Great Lakes, Gilhouse said. Over the past six years and through a variety of partnerships, the district has promoted and installed best management practices (BMPs) on over 6,300 acres within the WLEB, including drainage water management, structures for water control, nutrient management, residue management filter strips, and cover crops.

These efforts have reduced nitrate runoff from farms by 50 percent (more than 10,600 pounds) and dissolved reactive phosphorus runoff from farms by 65 percent (1,900 pounds). For additional information on the Lenawee Conservation District's water quality activities and programs, [visit their website](#).



Districts at Work

South Carolina district uses innovative educational tool to explain watershed dynamics

The Greenville County Soil and Water Conservation District (GCSWCD) in South Carolina recently began using a [watershed model of Greenville County](#) as part of its educational outreach efforts.

The model is a topographically accurate map that features real aerial photography of the area and includes boundaries for local waterways, roadways, landmarks, municipalities, and, most importantly, the watersheds.

Using a spray bottle to “make it rain” on the waterproof model (see the second photo), district employees demonstrate how stormwater travels through the watershed and eventually drains into what staff affectionately refer to as “Lake Greenwood” (the lake downstream of Greenville).

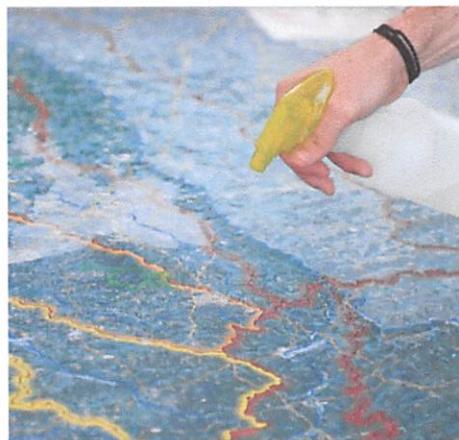
The idea for the model was hatched in 2015 when GCSWCD staff were brainstorming an upcoming litter pollution campaign. At the time, there seemed to be a disconnect among members of the public when it came to roadside litter and litter found in and around waterways. After some research and meeting with local conservationists, GCSWCD determined that many residents didn’t understand the concept of a watershed and that urban, roadside litter was making its way into rivers with every rainfall event.

After a year and a half of planning and building, the model was finally delivered to GCSWCD.

(continued on next page)



The model shows the watersheds (and subwatersheds) of Greenville County, South Carolina. Audiences young and old have enjoyed getting up close and personal with their watersheds via this 3-D model for several months now.



“Rain” water travels across the land and into tributaries and rivers before flowing downstream.

Districts at Work

“The model works exactly as intended and has been an effective tool in educating the public,” said Maddi Phillips, the community relations coordinator for GCSWCD.

In every model demonstration, Phillips explained, the first step is to locate individual homes, offices, or schools on the map to give the audience some personalized context. “From there, they are able to see which of Greenville’s ten watersheds they are located in and which river their stormwater – and its accompanying pollution – flows into.”

At the beginning of the demonstration, most participants don’t know what a watershed is or how it works. By the end of the demo, they are able to describe in detail how a watershed functions and how pollution flows through the system. “From elementary-aged students to adults, people understand the model, the concept, and leave a more aware, educated citizen,” Phillips said.



The model was debuted in April 2017 at IMAGINE Upstate, a STEAM-based street festival in downtown Greenville.

Paula Gucker, assistant county administrator for Community Planning, Development, and Public Works, said the model presents “a tremendous opportunity for watershed education in Greenville County.”

“It takes a somewhat abstract concept and makes it real and tangible,” Gucker continued. “Stormwater is part of a bigger picture in urban development, and this hands-on model helps communicate that.”



Soil Health Champion Spotlight: David Daigle of Louisiana

David Daigle figured he knew all there was to know about grazing cattle in southern longleaf pine. He's been managing cattle on his 2,000-acre Louisiana property since 1982 and served as a consultant for fire-dependent habitats in the state. But when NRCS soil health expert Ray Archuleta led a field tour on his property two years ago, Daigle's eyes were opened.

"We thought that our habitat was being maintained because the cattle were rubbing up on the brush species and browsing in the winter to keep those species in check," said Daigle, the supervisor and chairman of the Calcasieu Soil and Water Conservation District. "We now know soil quality has a lot to do with keeping those brush species down, too. The grasses and forbs tend to out-compete the brush species when used in con-

junction with fire."

Prescribed fire is an essential tool in the restoration of longleaf pine. At one point, longleaf covered more than 90 million acres across the southern state; today, less than four million acres remain.

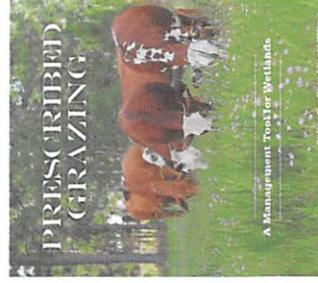
Daigle prescribes two fires within a five-year period, most often burning between the months of January and May. "We try to mimic the natural fire regime best we can," he said. "Most recently we've been burning in ways that create a patch burn."

His prescribed grazing operation (a form of silvopasture, one of five recognized agroforestry practices) is designed to mimic the impacts that the bison and elk had on the southern longleaf pine ecosystems years ago. Stocking rates vary from one cow per 10 to 20 acres, and Daigle says rotational grazing is critical to realizing optimum results for the cattle and forested landscape.

(continued on next page)

The soil health component is new, but something Daigle has grown passionate about. "Since 1992, there have been a lot of efforts to maintain the habitat with just fire, but we were having a hard time keeping our native brush species in check," he explained. "We know the use of prescribed fire and prescribed grazing seems to maintain the landscape better than just fire alone, and that the grazing component is influencing soil health (and) soil quality – the ecosystem below the ground. Our grasses and forbs are stronger and healthier!"

"I've been doing this a long time, but it's only been the last year and half that we've tied the pieces together."



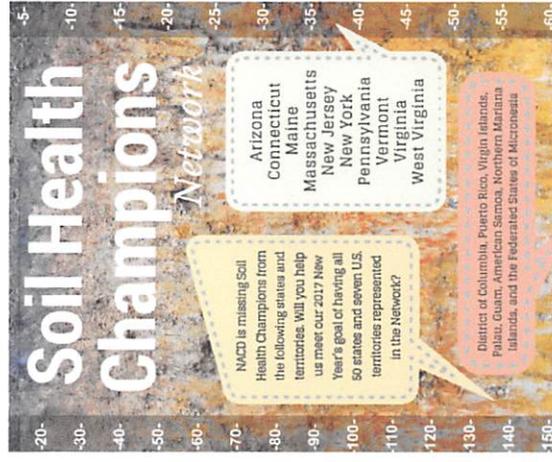
Prescribed Grazing: A Management Tool for Wetlands

Dan Caudle and David Daigle teamed up to publish "Prescribed Grazing: A Management Tool" in 2016. The book – [available for purchase here](#) – is an assessment of the ecological drivers and the natural and historic disturbance regimes of grazing and fire as they relate to longleaf pine savanna, coastal marsh, coastal prairie, and other similar ecosystems with wetland components.

Do you know a soil health champion?

Today, the [Soil Health Champions Network](#) spans more than 160 individuals in 40 states, including Alaska and Hawaii. NACD is seeking to expand the network to include a champion from every state and U.S. territory.

Here at NACD, we believe the value of healthy soils touches everyone – even the folks in states where a champion hasn't yet been recognized. Would you or someone you know like to be a part of our Soil Health Champions Network? Contact NACD North Central Region Representative, Beth Mason, by [email](#) or by phone, (317)-946-4463.



Scotts Miracle-Gro

Lawn and Garden Renewal

Spring has officially arrived – a cue for gardeners to step outside of their homes, pull on their planting gloves, and reshape their landscape into something beautiful. At Scotts Miracle-Gro, this is our favorite time of the year.

As gardeners ourselves, we uniquely understand the importance of water. It is impossible for any plant to grow without it. But all too often, communities face serious and lasting drought. In other areas, local waters are impacted by nutrient impairment that threatens access and availability of clean water.

In this way, we view water as a strategic resource that must be protected. And so, this season, we are particularly excited to share with our consumers water protection and conservation measures through a company-wide strategy dubbed the "Water Positive Landscape Initiative," which will help gardeners utilize water more efficiently and better protect water quality while maintaining their outdoor landscape.

One example of the work this Initiative will entail includes our effort to bring the "Connected Yard" to life for residential gardeners. By leveraging internet and mobile technology, we can arm gardeners with easy-to-operate devices that will save water while growing healthier plants, and eventually, help them more precisely feed the right nutrients at the right time to their garden plants and lawn grass.

Another key component of the Initiative is to



Mark Slavens,
Vice President, Environmental Affairs

build partnerships with those who are working to protect water resources everyday – to support their efforts, and learn from them how we can do better in our own programming.

In this regard, we were excited to expand upon our past work with the National Association of Conservation Districts to include the long-term sponsorship of the monthly Urban and Community Conservation Webinar series. This educational series helps county district practitioners across the country learn about new strategies to advance soil and water conservation programming in urban settings.

NACD staff and volunteers have provided valuable feedback on how we can improve our product design standards to better account for natural resource protection. It is this dialogue that will bring to light issues our company may not have thought of on our own, but are important for us

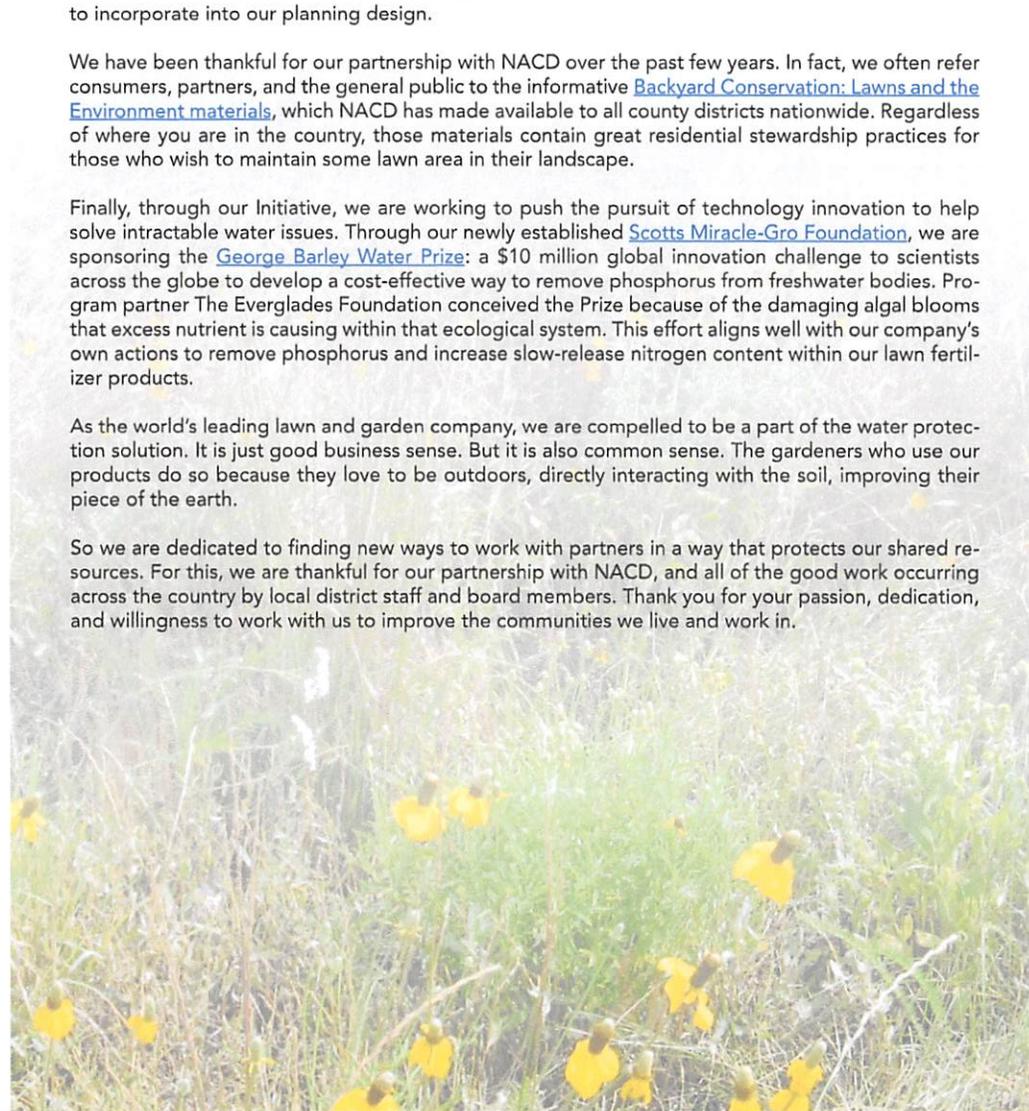
to incorporate into our planning design.

We have been thankful for our partnership with NACD over the past few years. In fact, we often refer consumers, partners, and the general public to the informative [Backyard Conservation: Lawns and the Environment materials](#), which NACD has made available to all county districts nationwide. Regardless of where you are in the country, those materials contain great residential stewardship practices for those who wish to maintain some lawn area in their landscape.

Finally, through our Initiative, we are working to push the pursuit of technology innovation to help solve intractable water issues. Through our newly established [Scotts Miracle-Gro Foundation](#), we are sponsoring the [George Barley Water Prize](#): a \$10 million global innovation challenge to scientists across the globe to develop a cost-effective way to remove phosphorus from freshwater bodies. Program partner The Everglades Foundation conceived the Prize because of the damaging algal blooms that excess nutrient is causing within that ecological system. This effort aligns well with our company's own actions to remove phosphorus and increase slow-release nitrogen content within our lawn fertilizer products.

As the world's leading lawn and garden company, we are compelled to be a part of the water protection solution. It is just good business sense. But it is also common sense. The gardeners who use our products do so because they love to be outdoors, directly interacting with the soil, improving their piece of the earth.

So we are dedicated to finding new ways to work with partners in a way that protects our shared resources. For this, we are thankful for our partnership with NACD, and all of the good work occurring across the country by local district staff and board members. Thank you for your passion, dedication, and willingness to work with us to improve the communities we live and work in.



Who We Are

Who We Are



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Mike Beacom
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Phylis Vandevere
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Mississippi



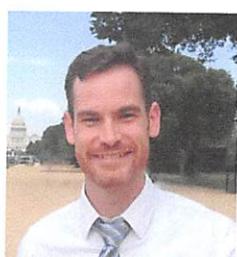
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Laura Demmel
Northern Plains Region
Representative
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Interested in Joining Our Team?

NACD hosts a full-time intern in the Washington, D.C., office two to three times a year. NACD interns typically work with NACD's government affairs and communications staff to advance the association's legislative agenda. They are given hands-on learning experiences that enhance their understanding of Congress and the legislative process; the work of federal natural resources and environmental agencies; and the roles conservation districts and state conservation agencies play in the development of natural resources, agricultural, and environmental policies.

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming an NACD intern, visit www.nacdnet.org/get-involved/careers-and-internships/.

Special Edition: River Rally 2017

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2016 River Rally Reception in Mobile, AL © John Wathen

We can't wait to see old friends and meet new ones at [River Rally 2017](#) next week! This year's event falls at a time when the social and political context of water is changing. Grand Rapids is the perfect place for this year's event. The transformation underway on the Grand River is a fabulous example of what is possible when the local nonprofit sector, business community, and government come together to revitalize a river.

Over the past few years, we have shifted River Rally programming to include water issues outside of mainstream conservation, such as water affordability and drinking water contamination. This year's program includes plenary panels on 'Affordability, Equity, and

Drinking Water,' 'Rethinking Our Relationship to Urban Rivers,' and 'Lessons from Standing Rock and Beyond,' as well as Dr. Dorceta Taylor's keynote on the topic of power and privilege in the American conservation movement.

NEW THIS YEAR: TEEN RIVER RALLY!

More than 50 Grand Rapids public high school students and their teachers will be joining River Rally for a day to attend workshops, meet exhibitors and Rally registrants, and participate in a service learning field trip. We are excited to help these young people learn about career pathways in conservation.

For those of you who cannot join us in Grand Rapids, we will be videotaping the plenary sessions to share with you following the event. For those of you who are coming, we look forward to seeing you soon!

[Download The 2017 River Rally Program Today!](#)

Congratulations, 2017 Award Winners!

When our community comes together, there is much to learn, and much to celebrate. On the final night of River Rally, we will honor the following individuals during the 2017 River Heroes Banquet and Awards Ceremony.

Our 2017 River Heroes: [Angie Rosser](#), [David Sligh](#), [Denny Caneff](#), [Margaret Frisbie](#), and [David Deen](#).

Our 2017 Compton Award recipient: [Dave Archambault II](#), 45th Chairman of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe.

Other Awards At River Rally 2017:

During the Urban Waters Learning Forum on Monday, May 8th, [Sarah Peel](#), [Karen Bishop](#), [Mystic River Watershed Association](#), and [Blue River Watershed Association](#) will receive their [Urban Waters Learning Network Awards](#). These awards celebrate Learning

Network members making significant achievements toward improving their urban waterways and revitalizing the neighborhoods around them. The [Urban Waters Learning Network](#) is jointly coordinated by River Network and Groundwork USA.

During breakfast on Wednesday, May 10th, River Management Society's president, Helen Clough, will announce the winner of their Frank Church Wild & Scenic Award.

Help Us Recognize Fallen River Heroes

Our annual River Heroes Banquet is an opportunity to give homage to those who have played formative roles in our lives, for our rivers, and in our community, including those who are no longer with us. Do you know of any fallen heroes who we should acknowledge and never forget? If so, please send their name and a picture (if you have one) to Nicole Silk at nsilk@rivernetwork.org by this Friday (May 5th) and she will include them in our program for our River Heroes Banquet on May 11th.

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River Rally sponsors enable us to bring top notch speakers and programming, while scholarship fund supporters enable diverse groups and individuals to attend. We could not produce this great event without you!

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Join Us For The What, Why, and How of Relevancy, Equity, Inclusion, and Diversity

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Dr. Dorceta Taylor speaking on Power, Privilege and Environmental Protection at [#RiverRally2017!](#) © Travis Fry

Join River Network for the first in a 2-part webinar series on diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI). This Thursday, May 18, we are hosting a **free** webinar with the Avarna Group entitled "The What, Why, and How of Relevancy, Equity, Inclusion, and Diversity".

To find out more and register please visit the [DEI Webinar Series](#) page on our website!

Sincerely

Your Friends at River Network

Monthly News from River Network – June 2017

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UPDATES ON OUR WORK



New Hampshire Rivers Council 2015 World Environment Day Cleanup © NHRC

**World Environment Day Event
Spurs New Hampshire Dam
Removal**

**LEARNING & ENGAGEMENT
OPPORTUNITIES**

A young volunteer made a troubling

TODAY! June 1, 2017 (1pm - 2:30pm)

discovery during a 2012 New Hampshire Rivers Council (NHRC) cleanup event on [McQuesten Brook](#). The beautiful native Eastern brook trout were dying. A series of obsolete 1950's-era dams had raised the water temperature and lowered the dissolved oxygen level in the brook, causing the fish to suffer.

In response to this discovery by the daughter of a local Anheuser-Busch brewery employee, NHRC quickly formed a coalition of municipal and state agencies, nonprofit partners, local businesses, and foundations to draft a watershed improvement plan. The plan's recommendations spurred the formation of a volunteer group who were outfitted with donated jackhammers and hand tools. After a week of backbreaking work, the team had removed four small dams and two undersized culverts.

The cleanup event that led to all this action took place thanks to support from Anheuser-Busch and River Network's World Environment Day program. This year's program is in full swing as World Environment Day 2017 approached on June 5th. A projected 2,000 Anheuser-Busch employees, partners, and family members will participate in more than 20 volunteer cleanup and restoration events across the country. These events, hosted by local organizations and coordinated by River Network, will restore shorelines and

EST) - Webinar: Grappling with Unconscious Bias for More Inclusive Water Protection and Restoration: [Register here](#)

Did you miss the first webinar in our Diversity, Equity and Inclusion series? You can now watch the recording [here](#).

June 8, 2017 (1pm - 2:30pm EST) - Water Environment Federation's Webinar - Stormwater Financing: Working with the Market for Green Stormwater Infrastructure: [Register here](#)

June 22, 2017 (12pm - 1pm EST) - Net Blue Webinar: Supporting Water-Neutral Community Growth Webinar: [Register here](#)

June 29, 2017 (1pm - 2pm EST) - National Association of City Transportation Officials: Introducing Urban Street Stormwater Guide (see release described earlier): [Register here](#)

[Take River Network's 2017 Trends Survey](#). This survey helps us gather up-to-date information on perceptions about conditions, threats, progress and River Network's value related to healthy rivers. It is designed to give us and you more insight into the challenges and

riverbanks. More importantly, they will engage the next generation of river and water champions.

River Rally 2017 Protect Clean Water Action Results

While we are still compiling final numbers from the 'Protect Clean Water' calls to action at River Rally 2017, we know that at least 25 groups in 19 states mailed letters and 230 individuals mailed postcards to the EPA, urging the agency to protect clean water regulations. Several groups told us that they did their own action alerts, including Gulf Restoration Network's alert that generated 1,300+ emails! Thank you all for voicing your concern to protect #PeopleNotPolluters!

opportunities we face collectively. It only takes a few minutes to complete. [Click here to begin.](#)

Contribute to our June match campaign to fuel strong river and water champions. [Click here](#) to donate now and have your gift go twice as far!

Did you miss last month's 'River Voices' on Water Equity and Civic Engagement? Check it out [here!](#)



Net Blue Toolkit to Help Communities Pursue Water-Neutral Growth

As population growth increases pressure on finite water supplies, the Alliance for Water Efficiency, Environmental Law Institute, and River Network recently launched the [Net Blue Ordinance Toolkit](#) to help communities pursue sustainable development without increasing overall water demands. Water-neutral growth ordinances can either require or incentivize residential and commercial developments to offset their projected additional water demand through water-efficient retrofits of existing development. Offset measures such as fixture and appliance replacements, [rainwater harvesting](#) and storm water capture, can allow development without increasing the overall water demand. Water efficiency stretches existing supplies, decreases the need for new infrastructure, and preserves water for fish, wildlife, and recreation.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Urban Street Stormwater Guide released by National Association of City Transportation Officials

This guide illustrates a vision of how cities can utilize one of their best assets—streets—to address resiliency and climate change. Also discussed are creating public spaces that are truly public, and nurturing streets that deliver social and economic value while protecting resources and reconnecting natural ecological processes. For more information, contact [Corinne Kisner](#). Special Rally 20% discount available until June 30th! 5RALLY [Read More >](#)

Learn how Colorado River Alliance is reaching diverse audiences.

CAFO report in Michigan

The Less = More Coalition released *A Watershed Moment*, a report and interactive mapping project documenting how Michigan industrial livestock operations received millions of dollars in federal subsidies to prevent pollution over two decades while they racked up environmental violations and factory farm-fed algae blooms grew to crisis-level hazards in public waters. [Read More >](#)

National Forest Foundation is accepting proposals for on-the-ground conservation matching grants (6/26 Deadline) [Read More >](#)

[Read More >](#)

YOUR MEMBER BENEFITS

We provide our Members with the tools, resources, and connections they need to be effective stewards of our rivers and water resources. Here's one way Members can benefit:

River Science Connection Access and Resources

Are you bumping up against the limits of your internal scientific and technical capacity? River Network's new [River Science Connection](#) enables our Member groups to access free science and technical support! Use this form to tell us what project or services you need help with, and our Science Manager will help match you with an appropriate expert. Use [this form](#) to tell us what project or services you need help with, and our Science Manager will help match you with an appropriate expert

Not a current River Network Member? Renew or join today! >>>

RIVER NETWORK MEMBER OF THE MONTH



West Virginia Rivers Coalition leading a clean water rally at the State Capitol Building in Charleston, WV. ©

Chad Cordell

W. VIRGINIA RIVERS COALITION:

West Virginia Rivers Coalition has been the voice for clean water in West Virginia since 1989. After a chemical leak in 2014 contaminated drinking water for 300,000 people in the state, WV Rivers fought for policy changes that better protect drinking water sources for West Virginians. Since then, WV Rivers has inspired and empowered citizens from across the state to get involved for the first time in clean water advocacy and community-based watershed protection.

WHY THEY'RE MEMBERS:

“Confronting big polluters in a state where resources are scarce and politics are immensely challenging, we need the support of advocates and experts from across the country. Being a part of River Network helps us feel not so alone in our struggles.”

- Angie Rosser, Executive Director (and [2017 River Hero](#))

MORE FROM RIVER NETWORK

Upcoming [Community Events](#)

[River Voices](#)

FORESTRY NOTES



www.forestrynotes.com
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Women woodland owners learn through sharing

Throughout the United States, women are increasingly becoming responsible for the management of private working lands. Some women inherit forestland from their parents or spouses. Others are entrepreneurs that purchase and manage their own forestland as an investment. Too often though, women lack access to the technical resources they need to be highly successful working landowners. [Read more in the Women in Forestry Special Report>>>](#)

Forestry Briefs

Pennsylvania - Conservation district helps organize agroforestry workshop

The Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry, Community Partnerships RC&D, and the Snyder County Conservation District have planned an agroforestry workshop for June 16. Resource professionals will present on marketing non-timber products, medicinal plants, edible plants and mushrooms, maple syrup, ginseng, multi-function buffer plantings, and charcoal making. The event will cost \$5 and includes lunch and handout materials. [Click here](#) to read more.

Minnesota - Districts assist North



Districts can make connections

In 2003, Linda Brownson and her husband relocated to New Hampshire from Texas, where for nine years she helped manage forestland and rangeland while her husband grew a family financial consulting business. The couple purchased a two-centuries-old New Hampshire farm that sits 1,500 feet above sea level in the western foothills of the White Mountains. Its 200 forested acres are an even mix of northern hardwoods (sugar and red maple, black cherry, birch, red oak) and conifers (balsam fir, white and red pine, eastern larch). It was a paradise for Brownson, but the property presented a series of management ideas and obstacles. She needed help.

“I wondered, ‘How am I going to find enough resources to manage this beautiful land?’”

Shore Forest Collaborative

For more than a decade, the North Shore Forest Collaborative has been leading an effort to replace dying birch across a 270,000-acre stretch between Knife River and the Ontario border. Roughly 70 percent of the troubled area is privately owned. Participating landowners purchase trees from local soil and water conservation districts. [Click here](#) to read the full article.

Washington - Washington field day pairs landowners with forest resource professionals

The Walla Walla County Conservation District hosted a forest health field day in May. The Palouse/Snake River Chapter of the Society of American Foresters and the Blue Resource Conservation and Development Council helped organize the event. The workshop allowed Eastern Washington forest resource professionals to interact with area landowners interested in managing their forestland. Read the full article [here](#).

Forestry News

Some forests have been hiding in plain sight [\[link\]](#)

Brownson began by signing up for workshops through the University of New Hampshire (UNH) Extension, which introduced her to the Grafton County Conservation District and local NRCS (the three organizations are co-located). Through that connection, she secured cost-share for five contracts that have addressed forest stand improvement, water crossings, culverts, and mast tree release. [Read more>>>](#)



Women4theLand provides resources

Since 2013, the Women, Food & Agriculture Network (WFAN), the American Farmland Trust, Indiana's Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (IASWCD) and other conservation partners have been working together to reach out to women farmers and forest landowners in Indiana. This effort, called Women4theLand, aims to provide information, networking, education, and resources. The objective is to empower them to make good science-based land use and land management decisions that lead to more viable communities and stronger farm enterprises while improving and sustaining the quality of natural resources. [Read more>>>](#)

When it comes to wildfire, the east coast is in the hot seat [\[link\]](#)

Go west, young pine: US forests shifting with climate change [\[link\]](#)

To save forests, cut some trees down, scientists say [\[link\]](#)

Calendar

June 20-22

[NACD Forestry RPG Summer Meeting](#)

Deadwood, South Dakota

June 27-29

[2017 North American Agroforestry Conference](#)

Blacksburg, Virginia

July 15-18

[NACD Summer Meeting](#)

Des Moines, Iowa

August 6-9

[NACD Southeast Region Meeting](#)

Greenville, South Carolina

August 13-15

[NACD Northeast Region Meeting](#)

Burlington, Vermont

September 10-11

[NACD Southwest and Pacific Region Meeting](#)

Tucson, Arizona

September 18-21



NASF, partners take to Capitol Hill for guided tree tour

Earlier this month, the National Association of State Foresters' (NASF) Communications Committee gathered with several partners in Washington, D.C., for an in-depth tour of the [Capitol Grounds](#) – now an accredited arboretum.

The event was organized by NASF Communications Director Amanda Cooke and attended by NASF CEO Jay Farrell, NACD Director of Communications Whitney Forman-Cook, and a number of state forestry agency leaders and professionals.

The tour was given by the Capitol Grounds Superintendent Ted Bechtol and covered the 58-acre area surrounding the Capitol Building and a large portion of the grounds' level II arboretum, which is home to at least 100 species of woody

[NASF Annual Meeting](#)

Charleston, West Virginia

November 15-19

[SAF Annual Convention](#)

Albuquerque, New Mexico

January 27-31

[2018 NACD Annual Meeting](#)

Nashville, Tennessee

Send news items by the 15th day of the preceding month to: Managing Editor at mike-beacom@nacdnet.org

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5/26/2017

Forestry Notes: Women woodland owners learn through sharing

plants. The grounds were designed in the late 1870s by Frederick Law Olmsted, a pioneer in the development of public parks in America.

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