

ACTION ITEMS

Discussion

New Business



**California Special
Districts Association**
Districts Stronger Together

CALIFORNIA SPECIAL DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION

2017 BOARD ELECTIONS

MAIL BALLOT INFORMATION

Dear Member:

A mail ballot has been enclosed for your district's use in voting to elect a representative to the CSDA Board of Directors in your Network for Seat C.

Each of CSDA's six (6) networks has three seats on the Board. Each of the candidates is either a board member or management-level employee of a member district located in your network. Each Regular Member (district) in good standing shall be entitled to vote for one (1) person to represent its network.

We have enclosed the candidate information for each candidate who submitted one. Please vote for **only one** candidate to represent your network in Seat C, **unless otherwise noted on the actual ballot**, and be sure to sign, date and fill in your member district information. If any part of the ballot is not complete, the ballot will not be valid and will not be counted.

Please utilize the enclosed return envelope to return the completed ballot. Ballots must be received at the CSDA office at 1112 I Street, Suite 200, Sacramento, CA 95814 by **5:00pm on Friday, August 4, 2017**.

If you do not use the enclosed envelope, please mail in your ballot to:

California Special Districts Association
Attn: 2017 Board Elections
1112 I Street, Suite 200
Sacramento, CA 95814

Please contact Beth Hummel at 877.924.2732 or bethh@csda.net with any questions.



**California Special
Districts Association**
Districts Stronger Together

2017 CSDA BOARD CANDIDATE INFORMATION SHEET

The following information **MUST** accompany your nomination form and Resolution/minute order:

Name: John DeMonaco

District/Company: Chino Valley Independent Fire District

Title: Director

Elected/Appointed/Staff: Elected

Length of Service with District: 11 years

1. Do you have current involvement with CSDA (such as committees, events, workshops, conferences, Governance Academy, etc.):

I am on the Legislative and Fiscal Committees

I have also served on the Education and Membership Committees

2. Have you ever been associated with any other state-wide associations (CSAC, ACWA, League, etc.):

I am on the Board of Directors for the Fire Districts Association of California

3. List local government involvement (such as LAFCo, Association of Governments, etc.):

N/A

4. List civic organization involvement:

I am a member and past Chairman of the Rotary Club of Chino. I am also a Board Member of the Chino Rotary Foundation.

****Candidate Statement** – Although it is not required, each candidate is requested to submit a candidate statement of no more than 300 words in length. **Any statements received in the CSDA office after May 31, 2017 will not be included with the ballot.**

I am seeking election to a seat on the Board of Directors of the California Special Districts Association.

I have served on the Board of Directors of the Chino Valley Independent Fire District for 11 years, elected in 2006. I am very proud to state that our Fire District is the **first** fire district to receive the District of Distinction Accreditation from the Special Districts Leadership Foundation (SDLF). We have been a District of Distinction since 2008. We also have obtained a District of Transparency Certificate of Excellence. I have completed the SDLF Recognition of Special District Governance.

I serve on the CSDA Legislative and the Fiscal Committees. I have previously served on the CSDA Education and Membership committees.

I am a retired Fire Chief with 33 years of Fire Service experience. I have been involved in city, county, JPAs and special districts in various capacities. I am currently on the Board of Directors of the Fire Districts Association of California and also serve on their Conference Committee. I am a Past President of the Chino Rotary Club and past Chairman of the Chino Rotary Foundation.

I understand, and I am committed to legislative advocacy for special districts. Special Districts provide one of the most effective, efficient, and accountable forms of local service. It is vital that we continue to work together to influence and monitor policy decisions affecting California special districts.

My commitment, extensive experience, and education in public service and as a special district board member and policy-maker, provides me with the ability to effectively serve as a CSDA Board Member representing all California Special Districts. I look forward to your support!

Please contact me at (909) 816-8396 or email at jdemonaco@chofire.org.

John DeMonaco



California Special
Districts Association
Districts Stronger Together

2017 CSDA BOARD CANDIDATE INFORMATION SHEET

The following information **MUST** accompany your nomination form and Resolution/minute order:

Name: Richard Hall

District/Company: Mojave Water Agency

Title: Director, Division 3

Elected/Appointed/Staff: Elected

Length of Service with District: 17 years

1. Do you have current involvement with CSDA (such as committees, events, workshops, conferences, Governance Academy, etc.):

Currently serving on the Professional Development
Committee and Membership Committee

2. Have you ever been associated with any other state-wide associations (CSAC, ACWA, League, etc.):

Mojave Water Agency is a member of ACWA

3. List local government involvement (such as LAFCo, Association of Governments, etc.):

Currently President of the Association of San Bernardino
County Special Districts

4. List civic organization involvement:

member of the Elks Association, Kiwanis, Summit Valley
Property Owners

****Candidate Statement** – Although it is not required, each candidate is requested to submit a candidate statement of no more than 300 words in length. **Any statements received in the CSDA office after May 31, 2017 will not be included with the ballot.**

CANDIDATE STATEMENT

My name is Richard Hall and I am currently a Director for the Mojave Water Agency and President of the Association of the San Bernardino County Special Districts and have served as an elected official for more than 35 years in two Special District organizations. I am interested in the CSDA Board of Directors position for Southern District Seat C – here is a list of my qualifications:

- First-hand knowledge and experience to ensure that we have safe, quality drinking water.
- Knowledge and experience in Recreation and Parks through 20 years on the Hesperia Recreation and Parks Special District board and served as president four times.
- Knowledge and experience in Property Owners Association in Summit Valley, California where I helped to bring electricity and natural gas to the owners and served as president.
- Knowledge and experience in Engineering and Management at General Dynamics Program Office working with the Federal and State government.
- Reduced taxes through leadership as well as set policy to purchase quality water, build water discharge facilities, and given tax money back to residents who helped reduce water usage.
- Continue to fight to bring 21st century technology to our Agency to study in order to better ensure management of our water resources by advanced computer systems; deep monitor wells, and other state of the art methods.
- Worked closely with community leaders and residents for best policies and strategies including getting State and Federal funding for safe, drinkable water and other needed projects and programs..
- Support funding colleges and students for research and development for continued new resource solutions for present and future issues.

I know that more needs to be done and have plans to meet these challenges. Let us protect our future and provide leadership with someone who knows how.



**California Special
Districts Association**
Districts Stronger Together

2017 CSDA BOARD CANDIDATE INFORMATION SHEET

The following information **MUST** accompany your nomination form and Resolution/minute order:

Name: Kristin Bloomer

District/Company: Desert Water Agency

Title: Secretary-Treasurer

Elected/Appointed/Staff: Elected

Length of Service with District: 12/4/15 - Current

1. Do you have current involvement with CSDA (such as committees, events, workshops, conferences, Governance Academy, etc.):

I recently attended the CSDA Legislative Days event.

2. Have you ever been associated with any other state-wide associations (CSAC, ACWA, League, etc.):

I am a member of ACWA and attend their conferences.

3. List local government involvement (such as LAFCo, Association of Governments, etc.):

City of Palm Springs Measure J Oversight Committee, Desert Water Agency Finance
and Legislative Committees

4. List civic organization involvement:

Palm Springs SunUp Rotary Club, Palm Springs Woman's Club, St. Theresa

School PTA President, Desert Roundtable

****Candidate Statement – Although it is not required, each candidate is requested to submit a candidate statement of no more than 300 words in length. Any statements received in the CSDA office after May 31, 2017 will not be included with the ballot.**

Kristin Bloomer's Candidate Statement

I was first elected to the Desert Water Agency Board in 2015 and currently serve as Secretary-Treasurer on the Board of Desert Water Agency. However, service to my community has always played an important role in my life. I am dedicated to improving the quality of life for my community. Throughout my life, influence in community affairs and local government has grown. I have focused on the priority of shaping local government to strengthen the local and regional economies and create solutions to local and regional challenges. Southern California is faced with many challenges and I believe that challenges present opportunities, and that the Southern Network cannot afford to miss capitalizing upon those opportunities.

I am a longtime Palm Springs resident. My community service started early, when as a teenager, I volunteered with The Braille Institute and the National Charity League of Palm Springs.

My dedication to community service includes:

- Palm Springs Measure J Oversight Commission Vice-Chair
 - Palm Springs Sunup Rotary Club past-President and current Assistant District Governor
 - Founding President of the Desert Valley Women's Club
 - Member of the Palm Springs Woman's Club
 - St Theresa School Parent Teacher Group Board President
 - Volunteer Volleyball Coach at Palm Springs High School
 - Finance and Legislative Committee of Desert Water Agency
-



**California Special
Districts Association**
Districts Stronger Together

2017 CSDA BOARD CANDIDATE INFORMATION SHEET

The following information **MUST** accompany your nomination form and Resolution/minute order:

Name: Arlene Schafer

District/Company: Costa Mesa Sanitary District

Title: Secretary

Elected/Appointed/Staff: Elected

Length of Service with District: 20 Years

- 1. Do you have current involvement with CSDA (such as committees, events, workshops, conferences, Governance Academy, etc.):**

Current member of the CSDA Board of Directors, Legislative Committee, Membership Commission Chair, Fiscal Committee and attendee of Legislative Days, Annual Conference, SDLA certificate holder.

- 2. Have you ever been associated with any other state-wide associations (CSAC, ACWA, League, etc.):**

Member of CSAC and was a member of the League when serving on the City Council.

- 3. List local government involvement (such as LAFCo, Association of Governments, etc.):**

LAFCO member representing special districts, former Chair and Vice Chair of the ISDOC and currently serving as an Executive Committee member, OCCOG Board member.

- 4. List civic organization involvement:**

President of Harbor-Mesa Lions (2 terms), Costa Mesa Republican Federation of Women, OC Federation of Women, 3rd Vice President Ways & Means, Costa Mesa for Responsible Government member.

RE-ELECT ARLENE SCHAFER CALIFORNIA SPECIAL DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION SOUTHERN NETWORK

Arlene Schafer—Secretary Costa Mesa Sanitary District



As the former Mayor of the City of Costa Mesa, it has been an honor to serve as your representative on the California Special Districts Association (CSDA) for the past two years and now I humbly ask for your support to re-elect me to the Southern Network for another term. I believe my 28 years of experience as a local government leader that includes 20 years serving special districts in a variety of different capacities makes me the best candidate. In March, the Little Hoover Commission will release its report on special districts and its very likely the report will focus on the role Local Agency Formation Commissions play in special district formation and reorganization. CSDA was an active participant in the public hearings where commissioners learned how special districts provide vital services in our communities and are directly accountable to our voters and ratepayers. During my term as a member of the Board of Directors, CSDA successfully advocated for special districts by using the latest technology for outreaching such as CSDA's campaign website, "Districts Make the Difference" and the new online video, "Districts Empower our Communities." I believe it is extremely important for CSDA to keep its foot on the pedal on advocacy by letting legislators, media, business leaders, schools and the general public know how important we are in our communities.

PREVIOUS CSDA EXPERIENCE

- ◆ Board President
- ◆ Board Vice President
- ◆ Board Secretary
- ◆ Finance Corporation
- ◆ Legislation Committee
- ◆ Fiscal Committee
- ◆ CSDA Membership Committee
- ◆ Recruitment & Planning Committee

Currently, I am serving on the Board of Directors for the Costa Mesa Sanitary District (CMSD) where I have been a Board member for 20 years. I am proud to be part of an organization that has been a District of Distinction since 2009, earned the Transparency Certificate of Excellence for four consecutive years and CMSD is one of few special districts in California that received Gold Recognition in Special District Governance.

If re-elected, I will continue to support CSDA's public outreach campaign about the essential services we provide and I will work collaboratively with CSDA Board of Directors and staff on providing essential training and professional development to help your agency succeed. Please vote for Arlene Schafer by August 4, 2017.



California Special
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2017 CSDA BOARD CANDIDATE INFORMATION SHEET

The following information **MUST** accompany your nomination form and Resolution/minute order:

Name: Michael Mack

District/Company: Rainbow Municipal Water District

Title: Director, Division 5

Elected/Appointed/Staff: Elected

Length of Service with District: 5 months

1. Do you have current involvement with CSDA (such as committees, events, workshops, conferences, Governance Academy, etc.):

I am the officially appointed RMWD representative for CSDA.

2. Have you ever been associated with any other state-wide associations (CSAC, ACWA, League, etc.):

I serve as the RMWD representative at both ACWA & CSDA.

3. List local government involvement (such as LAFCo, Association of Governments, etc.):

I worked for the city of San Marcos, CA for over 30 years as Parks Superintendent.

4. List civic organization involvement:

Past President of P.T.A.

*** SEE ATTACHED STATEMENT ***

****Candidate Statement** – Although it is not required, each candidate is requested to submit a candidate statement of no more than 300 words in length. **Any statements received in the CSDA office after May 31, 2017 will not be included with the ballot.**

ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES



My name is Michael Mack and I am honored to be seeking election to be on the Board of Directors of California Special Districts Association.

I was elected to the Rainbow Municipal Water District Board of Directors in December 2016 and appointed to serve as the District's representative at both ACWA and CSDA. My background includes a degree in horticulture and worked for the City of San Marcos for over thirty years. As the Parks Department Supervisor, I had many responsibilities including reviewing plans and inspection of new park and street median installations. I was both a Certified Playground Inspector and Irrigation Auditor. One of my main responsibilities was ensuring efficient usage of water resources. I calculated, determined, and programmed water requirements for the plant material for all parks and street medians within the City.

I have learned the importance of CSDA is we are the support system to help ensure efficient and productive services to both small and large communities throughout California at the local level of city governments. As your CSDA Board Member, I see endless possibilities and promise to tackle and meet the challenges our districts face. We all must work together for present and future needs for our special districts and by doing so we can and will achieve our goals. We must be proactive with our legislators and with this energy and commitment we can make the difference between success and failure.

I am very honored to have this chance to serve all of you and given this opportunity. I feel extensive service and experience in the public sector, I will work effortlessly to make those endless possibilities become reality.

CSDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2017 ELECTION



**SOUTHERN
NETWORK**

SEAT C
term ends 2020

Please vote for only one.

- Arlene Schafer***
Costa Mesa Sanitary District
- Kristin Bloomer**
Desert Water Agency
- John DeMonaco**
Chino Valley Independent Fire District
- Richard Hall**
Mojave Water Agency
- Michael Mack**
Rainbow Municipal Water District

All fields must be completed for ballot to be counted.

**incumbent running for re-election*

SIGNATURE:	DATE:
MEMBER DISTRICT:	

Must be received by 5pm, August 4, 2017. CSDA, 1112 I Street, Suite 200, Sacramento, CA 95814



**“Getting the Most Conservation from
Your RCD Director Time”**
Southern California Resource Conservation Districts
August 4, 2017 - Riverside, CA
9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Facilitator – Ray Ledgerwood

Session Objectives:

- Provide tips, tools and techniques for getting the most of your time as an RCD Director.
- Training and sharing strategies and techniques for practical, effective, and coordinated delivery of conservation services and programs that can be immediately implemented in your RCD through an understanding of California RCD powers, authorities, and responsibilities, effective board governance, increased conservation implementation on high priority local natural resource issues, recruitment and retention of high quality district staff, building highly productive partnerships and alliances.

Agenda

- Opening Comments, Introductions, Agenda, & Session Objectives
- Characteristics of Productive Resource Conservation District
- Power, Authorities, Responsibilities of California Conservation Districts
- Building and Sustaining a Great Board of Directors
- Effective Organizations
- Goals Grid
- Building Partnerships/Alliances for Conservation Work
- Lunch Break & Guest Speakers
- Building Your RCD’s Program to Meet Natural Resource & People Needs
- Recruiting, Hiring, Retaining, Supervising, Evaluating & Working with High Quality Staff
- Improving Your District’s Performance & Operations
- Questions & Discussion
- Workshop Evaluation & Closing Comments
- Adjourn

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Board Works by Ledgerwood
rayledgerwood@msn.com or 208.301.4728
Tuesday, June 13, 2017

Agenda



“Getting the Most Conservation from Your RCD Director Time”

Southern California Resource Conservation Districts

August 4, 2017 - Riverside, CA

9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Session Objectives:

- Provide tips, tools and techniques for getting the most of your time as an RCD Director.
- Training and sharing strategies and techniques for practical, effective, and coordinated delivery of conservation services and programs that can be immediately implemented in your RCD through an understanding of California RCD powers, authorities, and responsibilities, effective board governance, increased conservation implementation on high priority local natural resource issues, recruitment and retention of high quality district staff, building highly productive partnerships and alliances.

Time	Duration	Activities	Outcomes & Notes
9:00 am	20 minutes	Opening Comments, Self-Introductions, Agenda & Session Objective <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Name, organization, and response to the question "What I want to learn today"? ▪ Review agenda and session objective 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ledgerwood reviews agenda and session objective. ▪ Listing of what participants want to learn at the work session
9:20 am	30 minutes	Characteristics of Productive Resource Conservation Districts (RCDs) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Individuals draft the top 2 characteristics of a productive Resource Conservation District ▪ Group discussion and sharing of the characteristics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Listing of characteristics of productive RCDs
9:50 am	30 minutes	Power, Authorities, Responsibilities of California RCDs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Short history and purpose of Conservation District movement ▪ California (CA) District law powers, authorities, and responsibilities ▪ CA government entity advantages and requirements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Information on Conservation District history, purpose, powers, authorities, and responsibilities
10:20 am	10 minutes	Break	
10:30 am	30 minutes	Building and Sustaining a Great Board of Directors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Group discussion of the 'best board' experiences and qualities ▪ Board member's motivations and needs ▪ The Board Member 'Toolkit' ▪ Increasing meeting effectiveness & use of Director's time ▪ Chair responsibilities ▪ Associations and influence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Listing of 'best board' qualities ▪ Understanding of Director motivations, needs and 'toolkit' ▪ Methods of increasing meeting effectiveness ▪ Understanding of associations and influence

Board Works by Ledgerwood

rayledgerwood@msn.com or 208.301.4728

Tuesday, June 13, 2017

Time	Duration	Activities	Outcomes & Notes
11:00 am	10 minutes	Effective Organizations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Presentation on the elements that make up an effective organization including; effective goal setting, analyzing the working environment, defining procedures, and effectively working with tension in an organization 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Participants awareness of critical elements of any effective organization – relate to their RCD
11:10 am	30 minutes	Goals Grid <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Introduce the "Goals Grid" for clarifying goals and objectives ▪ District exercise to complete the "Goals Grid" utilizing the focus questions: what are you trying to achieve; what are you trying to preserve; what are you trying to avoid, and what are you trying to eliminate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Completed goals grid for each district
11:40 pm	20 minutes	Building Partnerships / Alliances for Conservation Work <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Group discussion of the best partnership/alliances getting conservation work done ▪ Characteristics of effective partnerships/alliances ▪ Relationship management in an RCD 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Participants learn new tips and techniques for building strong and effective alliances
Noon	90 minutes	Lunch Break & Guest Speakers (on-site) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ David Bunn – Director, CA Department of Conservation ▪ Glenda Humiston - Vice President, Agriculture and Natural Resources, University of California ▪ Questions & discussion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Guest Speakers on the influence & accomplishments of RCDs in California built from partnership building
1:30 pm	40 minutes	Building Your RCD's Program to Meet Natural Resource & People Needs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Group discussion of California examples of effective programs meeting natural resource and people needs ▪ Finding and gathering natural resource data ▪ Board and staff assessment of resource priorities ▪ Long range planning and annual planning ▪ Matching funding sources to resource conditions ▪ Strategic discussion of state and regional priorities and initiatives ▪ Developing measurable goals ▪ 'Moving the Conservation Dials" – real results that mean something to people served 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Participants learn new techniques and share their thoughts on the priority natural resource issues in the district, state, region and related assessment, planning, and funding

Time	Duration	Activities	Outcomes & Notes
2:10 pm	10 minutes	Break	
2:20 pm	40 minutes	Recruiting, Hiring, Retaining, Supervising, Evaluating & Working with High Quality Staff <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Group discussion of the governance role of the Board of Directors to set policy, direction, vision, delegation and supervision ▪ The district manager role in implementing, coordinating, and oversight based on board direction and delegation ▪ Staff role in program, service delivery, feedback from 'customers' and partners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Clarity of roles of Board of Directors, manager and staff
3:00 pm	30 minutes	Improving Your District's Performance & Operations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Discussion of examples of outstanding district performance and operations – elements of success ▪ Example methods for sharing resources to address conservation workload and opportunities ▪ Running a good business that exceeds requirements...Good Governance example ▪ Government entity responsibilities – fiscal responsibilities, internal audits, meetings, public records, accounting, contracts, bids, personnel, bonding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Information and examples of successful conservation district performance and operations
3:30 pm	20 minutes	Questions & Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Opportunity for questions and open discussion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Questions and discussion
3:50 pm	10 minutes	Workshop Evaluation & Closing Comments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Individuals evaluate work session regarding session "things to keep", things to change", "something I learned", and "was it worth my time" ▪ Closing comments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Evaluation worksheet completed
4:00 pm		Adjourn	

OLD BUSINESS

Crop Swap

			SignedAgr	Comments	PreConv	PostConv
Kinsman	3.5	Avacados to Grapes	Yes		Yes	
Sahraian	3	Avacados to Citrus	Yes		Yes	
Caballero	7.07	Avacadoes to Dragon Fruit	Yes		Yes	
Olhasso	3.3	Avacados to Grapes	Yes		Yes	
Taylor	7	Avacados to Citrus	Yes		Yes	
Prestifilippo			Yes		Yes	##
DeRoberts	3.1	Avacados to Grapes	Yes		Yes	
Kanaley	3	Avacados to Grapes	Yes		Yes	
McIntire	4.45	Avacados to Grapes	Yes		Yes	
Wu	16	Avacados to Citrus	Yes			
Peterson	12	Avacados to Grapes	Yes			
Schafer	4	Avacados to Olives?	Yes		Yes	
Kunkle	4	Avacados to citrus				
McDonald			Yes			
Apshire			Yes			
Hartman			Yes			
Ybar			Yes			

Water Audits

NAME	Acres	Crop	Signed			Comments
			agr	pre audit	post audit	
Brown	4.5	Avacados	Yes	yes RCRC	yes	Bills Submitted
Caravello	42	Avacados	Yes	yes		
Cohen	13	Avacados	Yes	yes RCRC	yes	Bills Submitted
Conley	5	Avacados	Yes	yes	yes	Bills Submitted
Johnson	4	Avacados	Yes	yes		
Hart	10	Grapes	yes	yes		
Rayhanabad	5	Grapes	yes	yes		
Sohi	4	Avacados	yes	yes		
Caballero	15	Avacados	yes	yes		in Crop Swap
Oslund	4			yes		
Wieter	3			yes		
Ron Sacco	10	Avacadoes	yes	yes		
Steve Ryder	3		yes	yes		
KhouryWaddick	5		yes	yes		
Schroeder		Avacados	yes			
Brown			yes	Yes		
Wheeler			yes	Yes		
Hoskins (1)			yes	Yes		
Hoskins (2)			yes	Yes		
No Longer Active						
Donovan	4	Avacados	Yes	yes RCRC	yes	Never Submitted Bills
Bob French		Avacados				Has forms but not yet submitted
Wytanec		Avacados				Has Agreement forms but never submitted

Attachment Checklist

The application questions, commencing on page 1, provide guidance on the attachments including which attachments are appropriate for your organization. A complete list of all possible attachments to the application is provided below. Please note that attachments will vary among Applicants. Applicants may be required to submit all or only a subset of the attachments listed below.

B. Mitigation Land Details			
Attached	Label	Question	Document Name
<input type="checkbox"/>	B.3.a	3	Table of Holdings (current and anticipated through the end of current year)
<input type="checkbox"/>	B.3.b	3	Table of transferred properties as of current year
<input type="checkbox"/>	B.4.	4	Table of habitat types managed in California
<input type="checkbox"/>	B.5.	5	Table of species managed in California
<input type="checkbox"/>	B.6.	6	Most recent annual monitoring report
<input type="checkbox"/>	B.7.	7	Enforcement policy or procedures
<input type="checkbox"/>	B.8.	8	Amendment policy
C. California Council of Land Trusts			
<input type="checkbox"/>	C.9.	9	CCLT membership acknowledgement letter
D. Land Trust Accreditation Commission			
<input type="checkbox"/>	D.10.	10	Copy of LTAC accreditation letter and certificate
E. Tax Status			
<input type="checkbox"/>	E.11.	11	Letter evidencing Section 115 and 170(c)(1) status
<input type="checkbox"/>	E.13.	13	Form 990, 990-EZ, 990-N, 990-PF submitted LAST THREE YEARS
<input type="checkbox"/>	E.14.	14	Recent IRS Favorable Determination Letter number 1050, 1045, or 947
<input type="checkbox"/>	E.17.	17	Letter evidencing Registry of Charitable Trusts registration
<input type="checkbox"/>	E.20.	20	Documentation of investigation(s) and actions to resolve violations
F. Purpose			
<input type="checkbox"/>	F.17.a	21	Mission Statement
<input type="checkbox"/>	F.17.b	21	Articles of Incorporation
<input type="checkbox"/>	F.17.c	21	Bylaws
<input type="checkbox"/>	F.17.d	21	Vision Statement
<input type="checkbox"/>	F.17.e	21	Enabling legislation
<input type="checkbox"/>	F.17.f	21	Stewardship Policy
G. Public Information			
<input type="checkbox"/>	G.23.a	23	Organizational brochure, recent annual report, or recent newsletter
<input type="checkbox"/>	G.23.b	23	Screen shot of web site showing information about board members
H. Board Information, Procedures, and Protocols			
<input type="checkbox"/>	H.24.a	24	List of board members with officers identified
<input type="checkbox"/>	H.24.b	24	Biographical statement for each board member, major employments, and key affiliations
<input type="checkbox"/>	H.24.c	24	Identification of and title of any persons directly or indirectly compensated in last 3 years
<input type="checkbox"/>	H.24.d	24	The nature and amount of compensation for individuals compensated by Applicant
<input type="checkbox"/>	H.25.a	25	Board member job description
<input type="checkbox"/>	H.25.b	25	List of committees
<input type="checkbox"/>	H.25.c	25	Board roll call and meeting minutes from LAST THREE YEARS
<input type="checkbox"/>	H.26.a	26	Applicant's policies and guidelines for decisions concerning investments
<input type="checkbox"/>	H.26.b	26	Budget committee reports to the Board from the LAST THREE YEARS
<input type="checkbox"/>	H.29.a	29	Conflict of Interest Policy
<input type="checkbox"/>	H.29.b	29	Conflict of Interest Policy acknowledgement form
<input type="checkbox"/>	H.30.a	30	List of staff members and their CVs, volunteers, interns, consultants, etc.
<input type="checkbox"/>	H.30.b	30	Annual work plans, annual evaluations, strategic plan evaluations, etc.
<input type="checkbox"/>	H.30.c	30	Policy for evaluating personnel performance or description of how Applicant evaluates its programs
I. Financial Status			
<input type="checkbox"/>	I.31.	31	Financial statements and audits FROM LAST THREE YEARS
<input type="checkbox"/>	I.32.a	32	Financial reviews FROM LAST THREE YEARS ,
	I.32.b	32	Management letters and related correspondence that accompanied the most recent audit/review/compilation of Applicant's financial records
<input type="checkbox"/>	I.32.c	32	Minutes from the board meeting when the results of the audit/review/compilation of Applicant's financial records were presented
<input type="checkbox"/>	I.34.a	34	Investment policy
<input type="checkbox"/>	I.34.b	34	Investment guidelines
<input type="checkbox"/>	I.35.	35	Most recent annual fiscal report(s) for endowments held for mitigation lands
<input type="checkbox"/>	I.36.	36	Spending policy or spending rules
<input type="checkbox"/>	I.37.	37	Income projections, budget planning documents, business plan for next 3 years
<input type="checkbox"/>	I.39.	39	Bond or credit rating from LAST THREE YEARS



The NACD eResource

Weekly news briefs from the National Association of Conservation Districts

NACD'S SUMMER MEETING APPROACHES – HAVE YOU REGISTERED YET?



Early bird registration for NACD and the Conservation Districts of Iowa's (CDI) Summer Conservation Forum and Tour ends next Friday, June 16. Will we see you July 15 to 18 in Altoona, Iowa? We hope so! Reserve your spot at the [early bird discounted rate](#) on NACD's website right now.

After Tuesday, June 20, the Prairie Meadows Hotel will no longer be offering rooms at [NACD's discounted rate of \\$107 per night](#) during the summer meeting. You don't want to miss out on the many amenities Prairie Meadows has to offer...

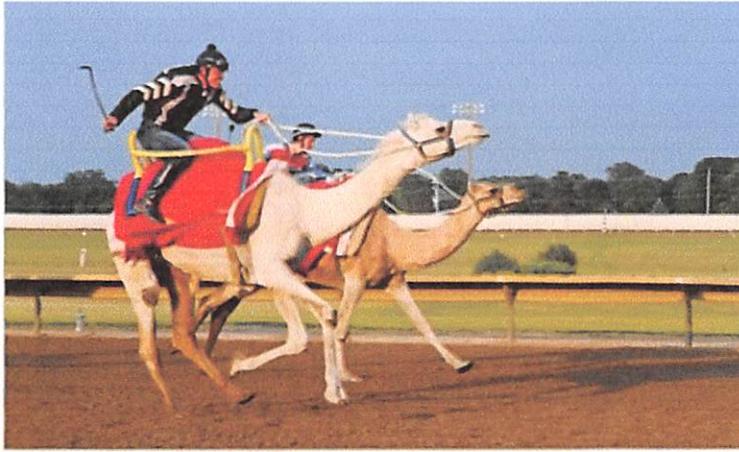
NACD's 2018 stewardship theme is...



The NACD Stewardship and Education Committee is excited to announce the release of the 2018 poster contest and 2018 stewardship week theme: *Watersheds – Our Water, Our Home.*

Water is one of our most precious resources. Watersheds supply water for drinking and recreation, irrigation and manufacturing, and wildlife and bird habitat. It is essential that each of us adopts good water conservation habits so that we can keep our water resources safe and productive now and for future generations.

Rules, entry forms, and other resources related to the 2018 NACD poster contest can be found on our [Contests webpage](#). The 2018 Stewardship Week will take place April 29 – May 6. For more information, visit our [Stewardship Program webpage](#).



Have you ever been to an ostrich, camel, or zebra race? Us neither! But you'll see us in the stands come 1:00pm on Sunday, July 16. The Prairie Meadows Hotel also offers free horse racing on Friday, July 14 (starting at 6:00pm) and on Saturday, July 15 (starting at 1:00pm). Live music is scheduled to play on Friday and Saturday nights too, and hotel guests have access to a casino and three restaurants on-site.

Registered meeting attendees will receive specific travel information and meeting logistics by email in the coming weeks. Have questions? Email events@nacdnet.org.

YOUR CTA EDUCATIONAL TWO-PAGER LANDED IN YOUR INBOX YESTERDAY – DID YOU CATCH IT?

In the wake of President Trump's FY18 budget request and Agriculture Secretary Perdue's proposed plans to reorganize USDA, NACD has created this [educational two-pager](#) on the Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA) program.

In addition to cutting many of USDA's voluntary conservation programs and eliminating others, the president's budget takes aim at the CTA program. Coupled with uncertainty surrounding USDA's reorganization plans, NACD is concerned cuts to CTA would severely limit our collective ability to put conservation practices on the ground.

Peters, Weller write op-ed on voluntary conservation



Yesterday, Agri-Pulse [published an op-ed](#) – “Collaborative conservation produces the best results” – penned by NACD CEO Jeremy Peters (pictured above) and Jason Weller, the former head of NRCS, now the senior director of sustainability for Land O'Lakes.

“At a time when the new administration is proposing substantial cuts to federal funding for working lands natural resources conservation – and the crucial conservation planning assistance that makes the on-farm results possible – it is more important than ever that we do not lose sight of this core fact: voluntary conservation works,” the two wrote. [Click here to read the full op-ed online.](#)

Soil health resources at your fingertips

NRCS is hosting a free webinar on Tuesday, June 13 at 2:00 pm EDT on how to improve soil health on urban farms. The webinar will discuss how a soil health management system can be implemented on a 3.5-acre mixed vegetable, urban farm to enhance microbial soil life. No pre-

Conservation Technical Assistance

The USDA Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA) program is the linchpin of conservation in the United States. Through NRCS and its local, state, and national partners, CTA helps landowners become better stewards of their natural resources by working them with resource assessment, practical design, planning, and monitoring of conservation practices.

CTA makes conservation planning possible

For any landowner to address a farm or other lands a variety of conservation practices, they must first have a conservation plan. Through CTA, NRCS provides the technical expertise, the capacity of NRCS conservationists are paid for with CTA funds.

Conservation plans identify the landowner's conservation goals and objectives, and are a critical component of the conservation process. They also serve as a record of the landowner's conservation goals and objectives.

With conservation plans, landowners can address the right conservation practices on the right lands of a farm or other lands. These plans are developed in partnership with NRCS conservationists. They also serve as a record of the landowner's conservation goals and objectives.

CTA infuses critical resources into the voluntary conservation delivery system

CTA provides technical, financial, and equipment assistance to help landowners implement conservation practices on their land. This assistance is provided through the voluntary conservation delivery system. Through CTA, NRCS provides the technical expertise, the capacity of NRCS conservationists are paid for with CTA funds.

CTA also provides financial assistance to help landowners purchase conservation practices, equipment, and supplies. This assistance is provided through the voluntary conservation delivery system. Through CTA, NRCS provides the technical expertise, the capacity of NRCS conservationists are paid for with CTA funds.

It is important for Congress to hear from conservation districts and their locally-elected leaders on the critical importance of CTA and the benefits of our locally-led conservation delivery system. Please read through the [educational two-pager](#) found at the top of NACD's

Grassroots Advocacy webpage, and use the information you learn to communicate the benefits of CTA to your lawmakers and throughout your local communities. You are free to distribute and use this document for any purpose you see fit.

Didn't receive this email, but wanted to? [Sign-up for NACD grassroots alerts](#) on our Grassroots Advocacy webpage.

registration is necessary; [click here](#) for more information.



A few months ago, the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board hosted a Soil Health Short Course (pictured above) in Wichita Falls. The short course included presentations from a variety of speakers including ranchers, farmers, researchers, NRCS field staff, and university professors. Their presentations are now available online through this [presentation playlist](#).

 **CHAMPION OF THE MONTH**

MICHAEL HELLER OF UPPER MARLBORO, MARYLAND



[Soil Health Champion Michael Heller](#) from Maryland has a background in sustainable agriculture. In 1982, Michael left his job teaching plant ecology at the University of Maryland to turn the then low-performing Clagett Farm

International Envirothon competition nears



Last week, the Westwood Collegiate team from Winnipeg (pictured above) took first place at the Manitoba Envirothon competition, the University of Toronto Schools team won the Ontario Envirothon, and the Southwest Valley FFA team won the Iowa Envirothon. All three will be headed to Emmitsburg, Maryland, next month to compete

into a living model for sustainable farming.

“The beauty of working on the farm here is that it directly benefits water quality in the Bay,” Heller said about the farm, which is owned by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. “Building soil quality is probably the single most important thing to improving water quality.”

Michael’s first focus in his new post at Clagett Farm was to build soil health. He began with grazing cattle, even at a time when cattle prices were very poor, and started growing organic sweet potatoes, squash, and sweet corn to sell wholesale. In the following decades, Michael continued to make a difference in his community and the Bay through sustainable agriculture systems and projects, such as:

- [“From the Ground Up CSA”](#) (“CSA” stands for community supported agriculture) that partnered with the Capital Area Food Bank to provide shareholders and low-income families with organically grown vegetables.
- [“Future Harvest CASA”](#) (“CASA” stands for the Chesapeake Alliance for Sustainable Agriculture), which focuses on educating both farmers and consumers about what sustainability means and why it’s important.
- [“Maryland Grazer’s Network”](#) that teaches producers how to increase profitability while improving the health of the Bay by grazing their livestock on pasture.

Michael also co-authored a cookbook – [“The Grassfed Gourmet Fires It Up!”](#) – that provides guidance on grilling, smoking, and barbecuing pasture-raised meats raised on small, American farms.

To read more about Michael and his operation, visit [his profile online](#). If you or someone you know is interested in soil health and would like to become a member of this growing, progressive network, please read through the Soil Health Champions Network one-pager ([that can be found on this webpage](#)) and consider contacting NACD North Central Region Representative Beth Mason at beth-mason@nacdnet.org to learn more.

against 45 state and 9 provincial teams – including the winner of this week’s state competition in Ohio – at the international NCF-Envirothon. To view a list of the winning teams to date, [click here](#).

Contact Us

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NACD Events Calendar

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SUMMER MEETING EARLY REGISTRATION CLOSES FRIDAY – NOW'S THE TIME TO SAVE YOUR SEAT!

The agenda for [NACD's Summer Conservation Forum and Tour](#) is nearly finalized! On Monday, July 17, meeting-goers will enjoy a general session and lunch highlighted by several VIP speakers, including **Bill Northey**, the head of Iowa's agriculture department and the rumored favorite for USDA's undersecretary of Farm Production and Conservation post. NACD and this year's summer meeting co-host – the Conservation Districts of Iowa (CDI) – have also invited Iowa Governor **Kim Reynolds**, USDA Secretary **Sonny Perdue**, and Iowa farmer and former NFL player **Bruce Nelson** to speak during Monday's program.



After lunch, attendees will have their pick of two simultaneous policy panels to attend:

- The “Public-Private Approaches to Conservation Planning” panel will be moderated by Sean McMahon with the Iowa Water Alliance and will feature Marty Adkins and Aaron Lauster of NRCS and Dave Muth of AgSolver.
- The “Community and Agriculture Working Together for Clean Water” panel will be moderated by Jeri Thornsberry with Black Hawk SWCD and will feature Jim Gillespie of the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship and Claire Lindahl of CDI and the Iowa Source Water Ag

Comments submitted, press release published on USDA's reorganization plan

NACD gave its take on the USDA's plan to reorganize today. You can read our official comments, as well as the press release on their submission, in [NACD's Newsroom](#).

USDA awards 33 CIG grants, Flint River SWCD in Georgia among grantees

Last week, NRCS announced it will award 33 Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) – totaling \$22.6 million – for the 2017 funding cycle to projects that will help to advance the development of tools, technologies, and strategies that support next-generation conservation efforts on working lands and develop market-based solutions to resource challenges.

Among the 2017 awardees is the **Flint River Soil and Water Conservation District in Georgia**. The district will use \$800,000 in CIG funds to demonstrate the viability of a comprehensive precision irrigation system in the southeastern coastal plain. The complete list of this year's winners is available on

Collaborative.



While board members are in meetings on Monday morning, other meeting guests will enjoy a tour of historical farms, a lunch program on letter writing, and a stop at the local shopping district. [Click here to see the full meeting agenda!](#)

This year's summer meeting will be held in Altoona, Iowa, from July 15 – 18 at the Prairie Meadows Hotel. The deadline to register for the meeting at early-bird prices is this **Friday, June 16**. The deadline to reserve your hotel room at NACD's discounted rate of \$107 per night is next **Tuesday, June 20**. [Visit NACD's website to register for the meeting and book your hotel today!](#)

INFORMATIONAL WEBINARS ON RSET NOW AVAILABLE

NRCS has archived several educational webinars for districts on the Resource Stewardship Evaluation Tool. [Go to this YouTube playlist to access the webinars.](#) The webinars include "RSE Overview," "Cropland RSE: How-To Guide," "Range RSE: How-To Guide," "Pasture RSE: How-To Guide," and "Science Behind RSE."

RSET is a free service that allows farmers and ranchers to assess how they are addressing key natural resources thresholds for water quality and quantity, soil health, air quality, and wildlife habitat through their stewardship practices on cropland, grazing land, and range land. NRCS anticipates it being available for forestry lands later this year.

See the [NRCS RSET page](#) for more information on this free

[NRCS' website.](#)

Conservation leaders from the Northern Plains meet



The Northern Plains Region Leaders Meeting last week brought together over 50 conservation leaders from Kansas, Nebraska, Montana, North Dakota, and South Dakota. The meeting included a region board meeting, an NACD Missouri River Team meeting, presentations on South Dakota's conservation efforts, and two local specialty crop tours. Throughout the meeting, the participants discussed topics in natural resource management and issues concerning conservation districts in the Northern Plains. Michael Crowder, NACD second vice president, and Laura Demmel, NACD Northern Plains representative, gave a presentation on NACD's ongoing advocacy and other activities dedicated to strengthening district work.

California grants \$2.2 million to RCDs to meet greenhouse gas reduction goals

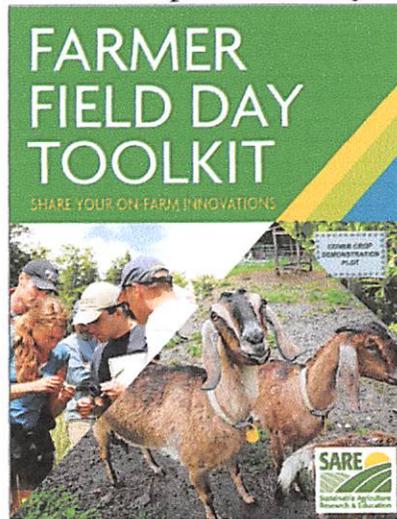
California's Department of Conservation (DOC) has awarded grants ranging from \$10,000 to \$45,000 to several resource

service. Producers can contact their local USDA service center to arrange for an evaluation.

USDA SARE RELEASES 'FARMER FIELD DAY TOOLKIT'

Looking for some tips on how to host successful field days or on-farm demonstrations? USDA's Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education program released a free, digital toolkit last week that can help with field day planning, day-of organization, and more, including how to work with the media, create press releases and PSAs, and generate public interest.

With advanced planning and coordination, you can use your field day to educate others on best practices, specific management practices and equipment, or to highlight research methods and results. It's a win-win for you, who may benefit from increased market and brand recognition, and your attendees, who may be inspired to take what they've learned and adapt it to their own production system. [Click here to learn more and download your own copy of the "Farmer Field Day Toolkit."](#)



NACD URBAN AGRICULTURE CONSERVATION INITIATIVE: LYCOMING COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT IN PENNSYLVANIA

conservation districts (RCDs) in the state. The funded activities range from public education campaigns about smart water usage and drought-resistant landscaping, to providing technical support for producers on soil health management topics like cover crops and compost. For more information, check out California's [Healthy Soils Initiative](#).

Senator meets with producers, districts in Delaware

In late May, U.S. Senator Tom Carper of Delaware spent two days visiting with conservation district supervisors, staff, and cooperators in the state, touring their farms and holding a roundtable meeting to discuss the upcoming farm bill. Sen. Carper's travels took him to Baxter Farms in Georgetown, where he learned about conservation programs, soil health, and the conservation partnership between the Sussex Conservation District, NRCS, and [Jay Baxter](#), an [NACD Soil Health Champion](#) and winner of the Delaware Association of Conservation Districts' Governor's Conservation Award.



Sen. Carper also traveled to Norman and Gwen Pierce's Union Ridge Farms, where the couple uses rotational grazing in their production of Boer goats. Norman (pictured with Sen.

Lycoming County is located in north central Pennsylvania and has a population of approximately 116,000 people. The percentage of folks living in poverty in the county seat of Williamsport is well above the statewide average, and many residents have need for locally-grown, healthy, and economical food options.



The Lycoming County Conservation District is partnering with existing gardening initiatives in the area to identify overlooked best management practices, address nutrition and food safety issues, and provide conservation demonstrations as part of their “Urban Agriculture for Healthier Families and Homes Program” – or “FreshFoodLyco” for short.

As a part of this initiative, FreshFoodLyco is working with Williamsport’s sponsored community garden to create an urban horticulture demonstration garden to introduce the basic tenets of urban agriculture on a small scale. The district is also working with local businesses to design a vertical garden space in the center of the city as a branch of this demonstration garden space.

FreshFoodLyco is an advocate for new municipal codes and permitting to make growing food easier and more accessible. It’s also working to boost healthy food supply to meet expanded capacity at the regional food bank, which recently underwent a renovation, and has created a web-based resource toolkit for community garden managers, senior home activities coordinators, master gardeners, and community action agencies to use in educating their groups on nutrition and growing practices unique to the Mid-Atlantic region.

Pictured above is a scene from the Penn State Master

Carper) and Gwen Pierce are associate board members of the New Castle Conservation District.

Final two state Envirothon competitions to be held this week

Maryland and California will host their state Envirothon competitions at the end of this week, wrapping up the 2017 season of state and provincial competitions. The winning teams will represent their states in Maryland at the international competition, only 40 days away! To view a list of teams advancing to Emmitsburg, Maryland, to compete July 23 – 29, [click here](#). To register for the event, [click here](#).

We want to hear from you!

Has your conservation district helped a landowner get a Forest Stewardship Plan? Have you helped a landowner with a plan use it to explore practices to meet the plan's requirements? Please share your story with NACD by emailing Forestry Specialist Mike Beacom at mike-beacom@nacdnet.org.

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NACD Events Calendar

For additional details regarding meetings listed below, [click here](#).

- NACD Summer Conservation

Gardeners Kids Day event held on Sunday, June 4. The district staff put on a quiz and riddle activity, held “story time” for young gardeners, and manned stations where about 50 kids and their families could plant flowers, get their faces painted, visit with therapy dogs, and much more.

Forum and Tour - July 15 - 18, 2017

- NCF-Envirothon - July 23 - 29, 2017
 - South Central Region Meeting - August 2 - 4, 2017
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250 CONSERVATION LEADERS GATHER IN LINCOLN FOR PARTNERSHIP SYMPOSIUM

Last Thursday, representatives of the National Conservation Partnership's five members – NACD, NRCS, the National Association of Resource Conservation and Development Councils, the National Association of State Conservation Agencies (NASCA), and the National Conservation District Employees Association – gathered in Lincoln, Nebraska, for their 2017 Leadership Development Symposium.



All six of NACD's region representatives were in attendance, and NACD's CEO Jeremy Peters and Director of Projects and Partnerships Rich Duesterhaus both gave presentations on the past and present work of the National Conservation Partnership. NACD's officer team – President Brent Van Dyke, First Vice President Tim Palmer, Second Vice President Michael Crowder, Secretary-Treasurer Kim LaFleur, and Immediate Past

September CPBC deadline is July 26

The last 2017 [Conservation Planning Boot Camp](#) (CPBC) session will be held September 12 to 28. The deadline for state associations to submit participant eligibility and contact information to NACD for this session is Wednesday, July 26. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2018, there may be fewer CPBC sessions open to district employee participation compared to FY 2017. Please contact NACD's staff lead on CPBC, Phylis Vandevere, at Phylis-Vandevere@nacdnet.org for more information.



As a reminder, district employees interested in attending CPBC must acquire E-Authorization and a LincPass, plus complete seven

President Lee McDaniel – also participated, in addition to more than twenty NACD board members.

The full-day meeting included presentations and a film on the beginnings of soil conservation in the United States, as well as several panel presentations on real-life ways to build district capacity through partnerships. Mike Brown, the executive director of NASCA, is pictured below spelling out the significance of conservation plans to landowners. Conservation plans represent an ethic and a story lived, he said. They document how a family “has cared for the land” over the many years they’ve spent cultivating it.



The lunch program featured keynote speaker Amy Hays of the Noble Research Institute, who told the crowd about the power of understanding generational differences in the workplace. The dinner program was made complete with a speech from Tom Osborne, former head coach of the University of Nebraska’s football team, on what makes a transformative leader.

NACD’S FORESTRY RPG MEETS IN DEADWOOD

required AgLearn courses before they are eligible to participate. If you already meet these requirements but can’t attend the September session, [contact Phylis](#) to be put on next year’s list.

Speaker line-up for summer meeting released

NACD’s 2017 Summer Conservation Forum and Tour will feature several VIP speakers on Monday, July 17, including Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds, Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Bill Northey, NRCS Acting Chief Leonard Jordan, and former NFL football player and Iowa farmer Bruce Nelson.

You can check out the updated meeting agenda on [NACD’s website](#). And as a friendly reminder, those still interested in registering for the meeting may only do so on-site between July 15 and 18 at the Prairie Meadows Hotel in Altoona, Iowa. The deadline for online registration has passed.

Executive director role open in Washington state

The Washington Association of Conservation Districts is currently seeking an executive director. The submission deadline for applications is Wednesday, July 12. For more information about the position, [click here](#).

NRCS announces two-year plan to restore 400,000 acres of private longleaf pine forests



The NACD Forestry Resource Policy Group (RPG) met in Deadwood, South Dakota, last week in conjunction with the National Association of State Foresters' (NASF) Forest Resources Management Committee. The groups toured a number of sites that showcased ways in which conservation districts in South Dakota and Wyoming are working with state forestry agencies to address forest resource concerns. The three-day meeting also included partnership presentations from the U.S. Forest Service, NRCS, National Agroforestry Center, American Forest Foundation, and National Wild Turkey Federation.

NACD 2017 AWARDS NOW OPEN TO NOMINATIONS

NACD has opened the nominations period for the 2017 NACD Service Awards! This is your opportunity to nominate a group or individual for national recognition for their outstanding work and leadership in natural resources conservation. Winners of the following awards will be honored at the NACD 2018 Annual Meeting in Nashville, Tennessee, on January 30, 2018 and highlighted in NACD publications.

- The *NACD Distinguished Service Award* recognizes an individual within the association, a conservation district, or a state association that has made significant contributions to the conservation and proper management of our nation's natural resources. Nominees can be involved with districts or the association at any level, including past NACD officers. Nominations are also accepted for

Last week, NRCS [released](#) a [two-year implementation strategy](#) to help private landowners restore and protect 400,000 acres of longleaf pine forests across Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas, and Virginia. The strategy includes NRCS' [Longleaf Pine Initiative](#) (LLPI), [Working Lands for Wildlife](#) (WLFW) and the [Regional Conservation Partnership Program](#).

Longleaf pine forests once encompassed more than 90 million acres across the Southeast, but over the past two centuries, development, logging, and fire suppression have reduced that area by almost 97 percent.

Because of the work of public-private partnerships, longleaf pine forests now cover nearly 5 million acres in the Southeast, reversing a century-long decline across the region and providing healthier habitat for more than 30 at-risk animal species. NRCS' overall goal is to increase longleaf pine acreage to 8 million acres by 2025.

Department of Interior announces recovery, delisting of Yellowstone grizzly bear

Last Thursday, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke [announced](#) that the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem (GYE) grizzly bear population has recovered to the point where federal protections are no longer necessary. The population is now estimated at 700 individuals, a major rebound from 136 in 1975. Now, management of the grizzly bears will revert back to the states

individuals posthumously.

- The *NACD Friend of Conservation Award* recognizes an individual, business, organization, or agency outside the association for outstanding contributions to the conservation of our nation's natural resources. Any individual, business, organization or agency that is not directly associated with conservation districts at the local, state, or national level is eligible to receive this award.

Earlier this year at the NACD 2017 Annual Meeting in Denver, Colorado, NACD honored Smithfield Foods with the 2016 NACD Friend of Conservation Award and NACD Board Member for Colorado Bob Warner for the 2016 NACD Distinguished Service Award.

Nominations for 2017 awards will be accepted from any individual, organization, agency, or conservation district. For more information and nomination forms, visit the [NACD website](#) between now and **August 31** and nominate your conservation heroes today!

NACD WEBINAR TO DELVE DEEP INTO HEALTHY FOOD ACCESS

People across the nation are working together to ensure communities have access to fresh and local produce. Tune in from noon to 1:00pm Eastern on July 20 to learn how two district efforts are boosting access to fresh foods.



In New Orleans, the Sankofa Community Development Corporation is working with the Crescent SWCD and NRCS to strengthen a community-based food system by linking good food grown by local farmers with consumers. In San Diego, the county and the RCD of Greater San

and tribes – a move NACD supports.

Senate Agriculture Committee to hold conservation forestry hearing

On Thursday, June 29 at 9:30am Eastern, the Senate Agriculture Committee will hold a hearing consisting of two witness panels on the "Past and Future Direction of the 2018 Farm Bill." Both livestream footage and a full witness list can be found [here](#).

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Diego County are managing the largest community garden in the area. Through the five-acre Tijuana River Valley Community Garden (pictured), RCDGSD is working to develop additional garden spaces as well as quarter-acre incubator farm plots.

This webinar is sponsored by The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company and held by the NACD Urban and Community Resource Policy Group. To register for free, email Debra Bogar at deb-bogar@nacdnet.org with your name, title, district or business name, and state.

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 highlights 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). The last installation of this series came out today and **tackles district funding**.

Conservation districts are up against more competition for funding than ever before. Traditional funding sources have either disappeared, or now come with higher expectations and more requirements. Unfortunately, complacency on the part of district boards and/or staff has led to the weakening of some conservation districts around the country. These districts will be left behind – or worse yet, out of business – if they do not change their operations to meet the changing political and financial environment.

In New Orleans, the Sankofa Community Development Corporation is working with the Crescent SWCD and NRCS to strengthen a community-based food system by linking good food grown by local farmers with consumers. In San Diego, the county and the RCD of Greater San Diego County are managing the largest community garden in the area. Through the five-acre Tijuana River Valley Community Garden (pictured), RCDGSD is working to develop additional garden spaces as well as quarter-acre incubator farm plots.

To cope, successful districts have prepared strategic

plans, business plans, and adopted best-practice policies and procedures. They have also developed and implemented funding plans that not only speak to their vision and mission statements, but also focus on the current and emerging conservation needs of their specific community's needs.

To read this month's chapter summary, [click here to be redirected to NACD's blog](#).

NACD PARTICIPATES AT FIELD TO MARKET SESSION

Field to Market – an organization supported by a long list of agricultural and conservation partners, including NACD – seeks to engage 20 percent of U.S. commodity crop acres in its supply chain sustainability program by 2020.

At the group's plenary and general assembly meeting last week in Raleigh, North Carolina, NACD's Communications Specialist Bill Berry offered his expertise as a committee member. Field to Market's President Rod Snyder told attendees the consortium has grown to 129 members – up from 48 just three years ago.

Conservation district leaders chosen for national spotlight

Last week, several conservation district leaders were honored by Field to Market as well. One of the Farmer Spotlight awards – which are presented to producers who use Field to Market's Fieldprint Platform to track their operation's stewardship improvements – went to Steve Wallpe, a producer and member of Indiana's Benton County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Board.



Wallpe and his wife Lana raise corn, soybeans, wheat, and cattle on their 1,800-acre operation. Wallpe is pictured above to the left of David Schemm, vice president of the National Association of Wheat Growers, and Diane Herndon, senior manager of sustainability for Nestle Purina.

Tim Smith, an associate commissioner with the Wright County SWCD in Iowa was also recognized. Smith farms 800 acres in north central Iowa. He uses cover crops, no-till, and other conservation practices, and is a member of the National Corn Growers Association Soil Health Partnership.

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NACD FROM CAPITOL HILL: UPDATE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Last week officially kicked off the appropriations cycle for the legislation that funds USDA (including NRCS) and the many conservation programs districts use across the country. The House Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture sent its draft Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 bill to the full committee last Wednesday. NACD is focused on three areas of this bill:

1. Funding for the Conservation Operations account, which includes funding for USDA's Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA) program,
2. Funding for the Watershed Programs, and
3. Mandatory funding for farm bill conservation programs.

Despite President Donald Trump's FY 2018 budget request to reduce CTA funding by almost \$100 million, the House subcommittee funded the full Conservation Operations account at \$858.9 million, slightly under the final FY 2017 figure and slightly over what the House passed in its Agriculture Appropriations FY 2017 bill.

The House subcommittee also rejected the president's request for no new funding for the Watershed Operations and Watershed Rehab program, although it did allocate less funding for the program compared to FY 2017 levels. Perhaps most importantly, the subcommittee's FY 2018 draft legislation does not include any reductions to EQIP or CSP – two mandatory farm bill programs that are regularly proposed for reduction during the appropriations cycle. NACD was pleased with the subcommittee's

Happy Fourth of July!



NACD offices will be closed today in observance of Independence Day.

Have an idea for a breakout session? Submit your proposal for NACD's 2018 Annual Meeting by September 1

NACD is now accepting proposals for our 2018 Annual Meeting breakout sessions. Next year's meeting will be held in Nashville, Tennessee, January 27 – 31, 2018 at the Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center.

January may seem like a long way off, but don't delay! NACD and our meeting attendees want to learn all about the innovative approaches and activities your district has to share. Breakout session proposals are due September 1. The application is [available here](#) and should be submitted to Eric Hansen at eric-hansen@nacdnet.org.

Call for presentations:

decision to not continue this practice and looks forward to working with the full House Appropriations Committee, as well as their Senate counterpart, as the appropriations cycle continues.

NACD URBAN AND COMMUNITY RPG MEETS IN SOUTHWEST

The NACD Urban and Community Resource Policy Group (RPG) gathered June 23-25 in Nevada to discuss how NACD can best assist the nation's conservation districts around urban and community conservation (U&C) considerations. The RPG also reviewed current U&C policy, identified potential U&C webinar topics, and brainstormed potential funding for future urban agriculture conservation (UAC) grants.



The highlight of the meeting was a trip to the [Zion Garden Park](#) (pictured), a 2016 UAC grant project sponsored by the Conservation District of Southern Nevada. The members barely noticed the 115 degree weather as they toured 50 new garden beds, permeable paved walkways, and a wrought iron fence paid for with leveraged funds. During both the tour – which was hosted by the Zion United Methodist Church – and RPG meeting, Amber Bosket, a volunteer UAC project coordinator and CDSN board member, and Corrie Bosket, an extension coordinator for conservation issues, shared valuable information with the RPG.

NACD urban and community webinars

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 ([click here for archived content](#)). These popular webinars – held from noon to 1:00pm Eastern on the third Thursday of each month – feature presentations by districts and district partners on a variety of urban and community conservation topics.

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.

Please send your proposals and topic/speaker ideas to [Debra Bogar](#) by **July 7, 2017**.

Recognize a pollinator advocate!

NACD and the Pollinator Partnership are currently accepting nominations for the 2017 Farmer Rancher Pollinator



CHAMPION OF THE MONTH

CODY AND DEANNA SAND OF ASHLEY, NORTH DAKOTA

Cody and Deanna Sand, along with their children Bailey, Desa, and Baxter, own and operate a 2,300-acre cow/calf operation in Dickey and McIntosh Counties in North Dakota. Cody and Deanna are third generation ranchers who purchased their ranch from Deanna's parents in 2001 after renting it for two years. It took until 2012 though, the couple says, before they started making strategic decisions about soil health management – and reaping the rewards. The Sands' transformation story started with a Holistic Management Course in Bismarck and was later chronicled in May of 2016 as part of a series published online by [“On Pasture.”](#)



The Sands wanted to make operational changes immediately, but they couldn't change their calving season from March/April to May/June because the cows were already bred for the year. To help pay off some of their debt, they began selling off the equipment they no longer needed as part of their new management system. They also changed up their grazing routine by putting all their cattle into one herd and rotating them between parcels – a change that helped shift their under-stocked and over-

Conservation Award. The award recognizes farmers and ranchers who protect and support pollinators through their operations. [Click here](#) to access the nomination form; nominations are due August 11.

FFA to join NACD and CDI at this coming Summer Conservation Forum and Tour

FFA will be holding their [New Century Farmer Program](#) Conference in Des Moines at the same time as the NACD Summer Conservation Forum and Tour in Altoona! During FFA's intensive five-day conference, participants will network with industry experts and attend a series of workshops and panel discussions on topics ranging from global marketplace concerns to farm financing.



NACD Secretary-Treasurer Kim LaFleur (pictured above) will be speaking to the group of 50 FFA program members (with an average age of 20) on Monday, July 17 during their luncheon. The FFA members - who are engaged in agriculture academically and have plans to return to a career in production agriculture - will join us Tuesday afternoon on the Soil Health Tour to learn about the National Conservation Partnership, as well as conservation careers, practices, and programs.

grazed operation to a system with improved soil health and forage density. As a science fair project, their daughter Desa proved that the grazed pastures are now in better shape than the ungrazed acres.

While more changes to their operation need implementing, they say, one thing was clear to the Sands – change is a process. “Each year, we might have a situation that leads us to make a different management decision,” Deanna told NACD. “Being open to change and not putting yourself in a box is very beneficial. Nothing is perfect all the time, and holistic management is looking and managing for everything as a whole.” To hear more directly from Cody and Deanna on their operation’s amazing transformation, take a look at a presentation they gave called “Change: It’s not a 4-letter word” at the [2015 North Dakota Grazing Land Coalition Meeting \(starting at 8:50 in the video\)](#). Also, be sure to visit the [Sands’ Soil Health Champion profile online](#) at NACD’s website.

If you or someone you know is interested in soil health and would like to become a member of this growing, progressive network, please contact NACD North Central Region Representative Beth Mason at beth-mason@nacdnet.org or 317-946-4463 for more information.

Contact Us

509 Capitol Court NE
Washington, D.C. 20002
(202) 547 6223

[email us](#)

NACD Events Calendar

For additional details regarding meetings listed below, [click here](#).

- 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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June Match Campaign

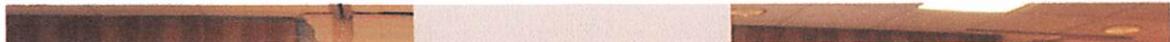
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Dear Rose,

The context of water in the U.S. is changing so rapidly these days. In response, we believe that a new, more inclusive movement for our nation's rivers and waters is needed, one that insists that we rethink and redefine the relationship between our communities and the waters that flow through them. And to fuel this new movement, we need your support.

Before I jump into why your gift during our June match campaign is so important, I want to share a story of our work that might help it come alive for you and demonstrate why donating to River Network is a great investment.

June Match Campaign Story #1: Civic Engagement for Water Equity



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Our very own [Diana Toledo](#) (left) leads the learning cohorts project in close collaboration with our friends from Groundwork USA and the Urban Waters Learning Network © John Walthen

Over the past year, River Network has broadened our programs to include water issues outside of mainstream conservation, such as water affordability, drinking water

contamination, and flooding and flood risk. Last summer, we won a three-year grant from the Kresge Foundation to establish two learning cohorts. One cohort includes community and watershed groups working on issues of flood risk and clean water, and the other includes groups working on drinking water and water supply. Groups in these two learning cohorts will learn how to engage more actively with local decision makers and grow their competency to move the needle toward a different water future. Cohort members are diverse and represent a broad range of socio-economic classes, ethnicities, and perspectives. They play a critical role in galvanizing support for the type of collaborative problem solving that is so essential to a just and equitable future that includes healthy rivers and communities.

The learning cohorts project is one example of the impressive accomplishments of our team of 17 staff members, who are spread across the country. Often, we are pushed to our limits, as our desire to help outpaces our capacity. Will you contribute to our June match campaign to help us support strong river and water champions? **If you [donate today](#), your gift will be matched 1:1 up to our campaign match goal of \$20,000!**

[Donate Now](#)

I hope we can count on your support!

Sincerely yours,



Nicole Silk, President



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June Match Campaign

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Dear Rose,

During our June match campaign, we are sending one email each week sharing a story that we hope will help our work come alive for you and demonstrate why donating to River Network is a great investment.

June Match Campaign Story #2: Keeping Our Rivers Flowing

Over the past two years, we have been slowly and steadily adding water security and sustainability to our repertoire through efforts in Colorado, the Colorado River Basin, and the Southeastern U.S., as well as nationally through projects like Net Blue.



[Gayle Killam](#) (left) and [Katherine Baer](#) (right) are our staff leads on the Net Blue project, and they know a *lot* about clean water policy.

The Net Blue project team comprised of 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 on finite water supplies. Water efficiency stretches existing supplies, decreases the need for new infrastructure, and preserves water for fish, wildlife, and recreation.

We believe that a new, more inclusive movement for our nation's rivers and waters is needed, one that insists that we rethink and redefine the relationship between our communities and the waters that flow through them. And to fuel this new movement, we need your support!

Will you contribute to our June match campaign to help us support strong river and water champions? If you [donate today](#), your gift will be matched 1:1 up to our campaign match goal of \$20,000!

[Donate Now](#)

I hope we can count on your support!

Sincerely yours,



Nicole Silk, President



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Dear Rose,

During our June match campaign, we are sending four stories of our work to help demonstrate why donating to River Network is a great investment. We hope you agree!

Story #3: Connecting Local, State and National Groups for Action



[April Ingle](#) (L), [Katherine Baer](#) (C) and [Gayle Killam](#) (R) are our staff members leading our work to connect local, state and national groups for policy campaigns and action.

In the wake of the 2016 elections, River Network stepped up our efforts to strengthen local and regional water champions' ability to participate in dialogue and action to protect our nation's waters, building bridges that unite rather than divide our communities. We convened a series of conference calls with state-wide and regional organizations to hear what they anticipated most needing from River Network given the changing political context.

Based on their input, we initiated a webinar on post-election implications for water, co-hosted a call with America's Great Waters Coalition to introduce local groups to the national Clean Water for All Campaign, and co-hosted a webinar with the Alliance for Justice on community organizing and advocacy. These events all attracted high participation, reflecting the need for groups outside of D.C. to better connect with national efforts and with one another.

June is more than halfway over, but we are less than halfway to our campaign goal of

\$20,000. Will you help us support strong river and water champions by [donating today](#)? Your gift during the month of June will go twice as far!

[Donate Now](#)

I hope we can't count you in!

Yours truly,



Nicole Silk, President



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Will You Fuel a New Movement for our Rivers?

[View this email in your browser](#)



This photo of our staff was taken just after we finished River Rally 2017 last month. Help us keep this energy flowing! © Nicole Silk

Dear Rose,

Our June match campaign is almost over, and we need your help! For our final campaign story, we are sharing the impact of our annual, national conference River Rally- and how you can help grow that impact.

Catalyzing Change through River Rally, and Beyond

Last month, River Network brought nearly 500 river and water champions together in Grand Rapids, Michigan for River Rally 2017. As we have done for the past few years, we designed this year's conference to take participants on a journey of learning and discovery. This is part of our concerted effort to grow a new, more inclusive movement to protect and restore our nation's rivers. With an explicit focus on creating an inclusive experience at River Rally, we designed activities that got participants out of their comfort zone and brought challenging water-related topics to the forefront in plenaries, keynotes

and workshops.

The formal River Rally 2017 program started with a keynote address by Dr. Dorceta Taylor, our nation's premier expert on diversity, equity and inclusion in the conservation community. Our first plenary panel included speakers from Flint and Detroit, Michigan sharing their experiences from the ongoing drinking water and [water affordability crises](#). Our third plenary featured tribal leaders who had spent months camped with the Standing Rock Sioux speaking about tribal sovereignty and the right of every community to defend their waters. Finally, we heard from business, government and non-profits leaders in Grand Rapids about how they are working together to restore and revitalize their urban stretch of the Grand River.

We raised more than \$120,000 in River Rally scholarship funding so that nearly half of the 500 attendees and speakers could access the financial support they needed to join us in Grand Rapids. Recognizing the need to engage the next generation in caring for our waters, we organized the first-ever Teen River Rally for 50 local public high school students to learn about careers in conservation and present on their environmental projects. All River Rally participants connected with peers, mentors and experts, and shared in the *three intense days* of learning, inspiration and celebration that is River Rally.

We need to nurture the connections and conversations that start at River Rally. Throughout the rest of the year, River Network provides the knowledge, resources and connections that *all* river and water champions need to succeed. And we truly cannot do this without [your support](#).

Will you contribute to our June match campaign to fuel the new, more inclusive movement for our nation's rivers and waters? We still need to raise \$13,480 to meet our goal of \$20,000. If you [donate today](#), your gift will be matched dollar for dollar. All gift amounts count!

[Donate Now](#)

I hope we can't count you in!

Yours truly,



Nicole Silk, President

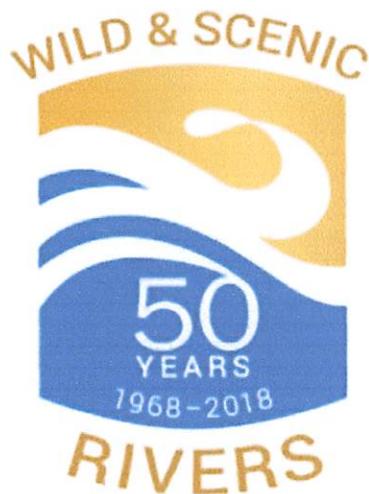
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Monthly News from River Network – July 2017

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UPDATES ON OUR WORK

It's your river. Make your splash!



While some might think the Wild and Scenic Rivers 50th anniversary in 2018 is only relevant to wild rivers, in fact, it's a key time to increase awareness of how *all* rivers are interconnected. Beloved backyard trickles, urban streams, city

LEARNING & ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Please take a few moments to participate in our [2017 Trends Survey](#). We need your input by the end of July!

Did you miss our 2-part webinar series on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion? You can now watch the recordings of [Part I](#) and [Part II](#).

Our match campaign is still going, and we need your help! We are just over halfway toward meeting our match goal of \$20,000. [Donate today](#), and your gift will be matched 1:1. Whether you can give \$10, \$100 or \$1,000, every gift is

watersheds, local water trails, and remote untamed rivers are all capillaries for the same water. We encourage you to **make your splash in 2018** by leveraging anniversary momentum and tools to build community around the water work you do.

[Learn how >](#)

deeply appreciated and will help us meet the needs of river and water champions.

Click here to
DONATE NOW

COMMUNITY NEWS

The U.S. Administration has proposed repealing the Clean Water Rule. Many groups, including River Network, are defending the Rule. [Learn more >](#)

What is social marketing, you ask? Learn about this targeted approach to community outreach and how Colorado's Barr Lake and Milton Reservoir Watershed Assn. used it to target sources of phosphorus pollution. [Learn more >](#)

The Funders' Network for Smart Growth and Livable Communities has a Partners for Places matching grant program, including green infrastructure grants. July 31 deadline. [Learn more >](#)

Atlanta Airport & Delta team up to help the Flint River. [Learn more >](#)

Hoosier Riverwatch on the relationship between land use and water quality. [Learn more >](#)

YOUR MEMBER BENEFITS

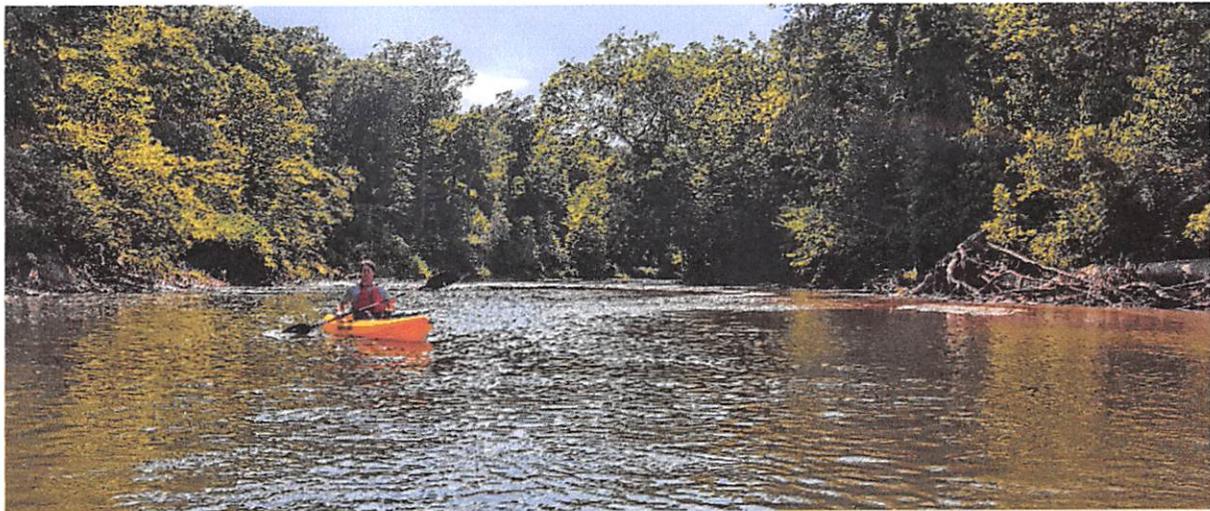
We provide our Members with the tools, resources, and connections they need to be effective stewards of our rivers and water resources. Here's one way we help our Members:

Post to our Community Events Calendar for free!

Do you have an upcoming event? Organizational Members can submit their events to be posted on [River Network's Community Events calendar](#) for free. Submit an event using [this form](#).

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

RIVER NETWORK MEMBER OF THE MONTH



A paddler works his way down the Middle Fork of the Vermillion River in Illinois. © Andrew Rehn

PRAIRIE RIVERS NETWORK

Prairie Rivers Network (PRN) has been Illinois' advocate for clean water and healthy rivers for fifty years. The Middle Fork of the Vermillion (pictured) is the state's only Wild and Scenic river and is threatened by a Dynegy owned coal ash impoundment. PRN fights to protect rivers, wildlife, and communities across Illinois threatened by the dangers posed by coal ash and other pollution.

WHY THEY'RE MEMBERS:

"PRN and River Network share similar goals, and our membership in River Network exemplifies the benefits that strong relationships can have in protecting the waters, rivers, and wildlife of Illinois."

- Carol Hays, Executive Director
Prairie Rivers Network

MORE FROM RIVER NETWORK

Upcoming [Community Events](#)

[River Voices e-magazine](#)

Check out impact stories related to
[Clean Water](#), [Ample Water](#), and
[Strong Champions](#)

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