

CORRESPONDENCE

MEMO

To: SoCal Inland Region Member Districts
From: Jim Earsom, Region Chair
Date: 1/4/2018
Re: **SoCal Inland Region Bank Distribution**

Good Morning SoCal Inland Region Members,

At the Saturday, March 25th, 2017 SoCal Inland Region Meeting, member districts took action on six items via a pre-meeting vote-by-mail. These items are shown in the attached minutes for that meeting, and included the following three items with implications on existing SoCal Inland Region funds:

- 5-1 vote to close SoCal Inland Region's checking account
- 3-2-1 vote (Mission abstaining) on discontinuing auction and dues for SoCal Inland Region
- 1-3-2 vote (AVRCD and SJBRCD abstaining) to reject use of current SoCal Inland bank funds on youth awards

While the March meeting provided direction on the account closure, members failed to come to a consensus regarding use of existing funds, originally collected from a combination of member auctions and payment of dues. For that reason, disbursal of funds was placed on the agenda for the fall 2017 SoCal Inland Region Meeting. During the discussion, board members present determined the item should be placed for vote-by-mail to all six member districts, for individual board discussion and determination of direction based on two potential options for direction of funds from SoCal Inland Region bank account:

1. **Option 1:** Funding directed to CARCD for use in educational programming to include one or more of the following destinations:
 1. *Statewide speak off awards*
CARCD gives awards to the speak off contestants every year at the state competition at conference. The funds could be used to pay the participants.
 2. *Conservation Strategy Group (CSG)*
CSG has been doing amazing work for the RCDs in finding funding, promoting our relevance, building partnerships and awareness, and advancing our work. CARCD rarely receives enough support from the RCDs to cover the cost of CSG and don't have enough funds to cover it from a general budget.
 3. *Support a specific CARCD education project*
CARCD can provide support to education programs, but don't have the funding to do so. We could compile a list of resources, a list of programs in the State, edit the one pager we have about RCD education programs or provide some other type of support to RCD education programs in connecting them to each other, resources, or messaging.
2. **Option 2:** Funding split evenly among SoCal Inland member districts, to be used as each district sees fit.

Instructions for Voting By Mail:

1. Each member district should place on action item on their next agenda to consider method for use of existing SoCal Inland Region bank account funds. The item should include:
 - i. Request for action based on direction to close the bank account back in March 2017
 - ii. Options for use of funds limited to options 1 and 2 provided in this memo. If the funds are directed to Option 1/CARCD, the Association may use them on one or more of the areas of potential support in the list provided by executive director Karen Buhr, and will try to meet requested modifications recommended by districts but can't guarantee the ability to do that.
2. Results from these individual district items should be provided to me via email at james.earsom@gmail.com
3. All results should be received by February 28th 2018 at the latest. If you don't provide a position by then, your district will be assumed to be abstaining

Please let me know if you have any questions and thank you to all of you for your time with this,

Jim Earsom, Region Chair
SoCal Inland Region, CARCD

MINUTES

Location:

- Meeting: Rancho Cucamonga City Hall, 10500 Civic Center Drive, Rancho Cucamonga CA 91730

Meeting Attendees:

- RCDs
 - AVRCD
 - Claudette Beck, Board President
 - Rich Campbell, Consultant
 - IERCD
 - Paul Williams, IERCD Board President / CARCD Acting Board President
 - Jim Earsom, IERCD Vice-Chair/SoCal Inland Region Chair
 - Mandy Parkes, District Manager
 - Mission RCD
 - Judy Mitchell, District Manager
 - RCRCD
 - Carol Bartels, Director
 - Shelli Lamb, District Manager
 - Kerwin Russell, Natural Resources Manager
 - SJBRCD
 - Brett Mills, District Manager
 - TEAMRCD
 - Rose Corona, Board President
 - Carol Lee Brady, Director
 - Rick Neugebauer, Associate Director
 - Randy Feeney, Associate Director
 - Dave McElroy, Office Manager
- Partners:
 - CARCD
 - Karen Buhr, Executive Director
 - CDFW
 - Jeff Brandt, Senior Environmental Scientist
 - NRCS
 - Jae Lee, Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations
 - Phillip Dixon, District Conservationist, Lancaster Field Office
 - RCFCO
 - Mekbib Degaga, Engineering Project Manager
 - RCWD
 - Danny Martin, Board Vice-President
 - SAWA
 - Hugh Wood, Executive Director

AVRCD Board President Claudette Beck called the meeting to order at 9:44 AM

Welcome by Claudette Beck and Attendee Roll Call

Approval of minutes from the fall 2016 SoCal Inland Region Meeting

TEAMRCD Board President Rose Corona motioned to accept the fall 2016 SoCal Inland Region meeting minutes. IERCD Board President Paul Williams provided the second. The motion passed, 4-0.

AVRCD	Aye	IERCD	Aye
MRCD	Absent	RCRCD	Aye
SJBRCD	Absent	TEAMRCD	Aye

Presentation: Challenges, Conservation, Collaboration, and Conservation with California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Jeff Brandt

TEAMRCD Board President Rose Corona introduced California Department of Fish and Wildlife Senior Environmental Scientist Jeff Brandt, who gave a presentation on CDFW priorities, challenges, and regional highlights. Mr. Brandt then provided time for each agency represented to present top challenges and/or success stories from individual service areas for CDFW consideration and potential provision of direction. RCDs who participated in this discussion with CDFW included AVRCD, IERCD, Mission RCD, RCRCD, SJBRCD, TEAMRCD, and partners including Riverside County Flood Control District and Rancho California Water District. Following the discussion with individual districts, Mr. Brandt thanked attendees for their time and concluded his section of the meeting.

Training on Division 9: discussion on Division 9 of the California Public Resources Code was provided by staff members of the Riverside-Corona RCD. Natural Resources Manager Kerwin Russell read aloud from key sections of Division 9 and District Manager Shelli Lamb shared ideas for introducing individual district board members to important sections of Division 9 to increase understanding of RCD powers and potential in California.

Action Items:

Prior to the meeting, tabled action items from the fall 2016 SoCal Inland meeting were distributed to all regional member districts for consideration and official individual board direction. Districts considered items and provided official individual board feedback to Riverside-Corona RCD for compilation and distribution back to the group. The final summaries of individual district direction on listed items is summarized in the following action items.

- Discussion & approval to close SoCal Inland checking account and decide how to disperse funds**

Member districts voted 5-1 to approve this item, with specific comments including:

District	Comments
AVRCD	Rejection of item; Keep checking account
IERCD	Close checking account

HOST: ANTELOPE VALLEY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT'S
SPRING SOCIAL INLAND REGION MEETING
SATURDAY, MARCH 25TH, 2017
9:30 A.M. – 3 P.M.

Mission RCD	Close checking account
RCRCD	Close checking account
SJBRCD	Close checking account; reason desired
TEAMRCD	Close checking account

2. Discussion & approval to discontinue area dues and auction items for area meetings:

Member districts voted 3-2 to approve this item, with Mission RCD providing comments but no official direction on this item. Specific comments included:

District	Comments
AVRCD	Rejection of item; keep dues/action
IERCD	Approval of item
Mission RCD	Requesting rationale behind item but no direction given
RCRCD	Approval of item
SJBRCD	Rejection of item
TEAMRCD	Approval of item

3. Discussion & Approval of Using Area Funding for Potential Youth Awards on Behalf of the Area (area RCDs to Submit Nominees)

Member districts rejected this item with a vote of one aye, three nays, and two districts providing comments but no specific direction on item action. Specific comments included:

District	Comments
AVRCD	No direction; comments included consideration of outside grants to help fund youth awards
IERCD	Disapproval of item
Mission RCD	Approval of item
RCRCD	Disapproval of item; recommendation to divide funds equally among districts
SJBRCD	No direction; requesting additional detail on process
TEAMRCD	Disapproval of item; recommendation to allow each board to individually manage respective funds

4. Discussion & Approval of Limiting Area Meeting to One a Year

Member districts voted to approve this item with a vote of 5-1, with specific comments including:

District	Comments
AVRCD	Approval of item; suggestion of Skype for second meeting if needed
IERCD	Disapproval of item
Mission RCD	Approval of item
RCRCD	Approval of item; suggestion of Skype for second meeting if needed
SJBRCD	Approval of item; suggestion of Skype for second meeting if needed
TEAMRCD	Approval of item, with suggestion of annual meeting set in January

5. Discussion & Approval to Discontinue Area Meeting Reports

Member districts voted to reject this item with two ayes and four nays. Specific comments included:

District	Comments
AVRCD	Disapproval of item
IERCD	Disapproval of item
Mission RCD	Approval of item; suggestion of use of websites/annual reports
RCRCD	Approval of item; suggestion of annual reports/specific items provided to CARCD when needed
SJBRCD	Disapproval of item
TEAMRCD	Disapproval of item, but recommendation to keep reports optional

6. Discussion & Possible Resolution Addressing Changes to the CARCD Bylaws Regarding Delegation of Voting Authority

Member districts voted to approve this item, with a vote of 4-2, with specific comments including:

District	Comments
AVRCD	Disapproval of item
IERCD	Approval of item
Mission RCD	Approval of item; clarification that only associate directors and management staff can vote on behalf of their district
RCRCD	Approval of item; clarification that only associate directors and management staff can vote on behalf of their district
SJBRCD	Approval of item; clarification that only associate directors and management staff can vote on behalf of their district
TEAMRCD	Disapproval of item; keep as-is that voting member from another district may vote on behalf of an absent district

Agency Reports

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS):

Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations Jae Lee provided an update from NRCS with significant points including:

- The status of NRCS and ability to continue to provide conservation technical assistance at its current level is unknown until budget proposals are finalized. There is a hiring freeze in place and local field offices are relying on cooperative agreement-funded assistance from partners.
- California's dead and dying trees continue to plague counties statewide, and NRCS State Conservationist Carlos Suarez has made this a significant priority for support through dedication of \$4 million to remediation projects.
- Local programs such as the USFS-USDA Two Chiefs effort in the San Bernardino National Forest resulted in significant advancement of forest health work, thanks in part to biological assistance from the Santa Ana Watershed Association

- Phillip Dixon is the new District Conservationist at the Lancaster Field Office, coming to NRCS California after more than ten years of experience in NRCS Tennessee. Other positions in Area 4 remain unfilled.

California Association of Resource Conservation Districts (CARCD)

CARCD Executive Director Karen Buhr provided updates including the following significant points:

- The deadline for funding for RCD capacity-building is March 28th, for both Tier I (Bootstrap Funding) and districts working to get to Tiers II and III (Relevant, Excellent, Visible/REV Funding). Ms. Buhr is anticipating between 45-50 REV applications, and encouraged SoCal Inland districts to apply for concepts that could be scaled depending on actual final number of applications received.
- The second round of Bechtel funding was successful, giving CARCD another two years with consulting firm Solid Ground. This resulted in development of opportunities for local, regional, and statewide training opportunities from Solid Ground, set to occur beginning in summer 2017 through December 2019.
- The original district set to host the 2017 CARCD conference was the Western Shasta RCD in its Redding headquarters; however, delays in development of proposed hotel/conference center excessively complicated the process. The conference will now be November 15th – 18th in Sacramento, and be focused on RCDs and partners.
- It is critical for districts to conduct outreach to local members of congress in light of the proposed 21% budget cut to the NRCS, particularly to moderate republicans. Legislative updates from Conservation Strategy Group on upcoming park bonds were provided, and attending districts were reminded about the March 30th conference call with CSG.

Treasurer's Report

SoCal Inland Treasurer/RCRCD Director Carol Bartels provided a treasurer's report including:

- Beginning balance of \$4,663.11
- Deposits:
 - Auction items deposit of \$170 from November 4, 2016 Meeting
 - Outstanding checks of \$50 and \$160 provided at March 25, 2017 Meeting
- Ending Balance of \$5,043.11

Special Presentation

RCRCD Natural Resources Manager Kerwin Russell presented RCRCD District Manager Shelli Lamb with 42nd District Congressman Ken Calvert Certificate of Service in recognition of her 40 years of service to the public. Mission RCD District Manager Judy Mitchell and Antelope Valley RCD consultant Rich Campbell spoke on behalf of Ms. Lamb's dedication to the public and natural resources.

Next Meeting: Area Chair Jim Earsom announced that per the alphabetical rotation of the SoCal Inland Region meeting hosting duties, that IERCD would be hosting the fall 2017 Region meeting.

Adjourn: Area Chair Jim Earsom adjourned the meeting at 2:48 PM.



1-19-18

To Rose Corona, President
Temecula Elsinore Anza Murrieta Resource Conservation District

We are providing this letter in connection with your review of the financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the basic financial statements of TEAM RCD as of and for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2017, for the purpose of obtaining limited assurance as a basis for reporting whether you are aware of any material modifications that should be made to the financial statements in order for them to be in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Certain representations in this letter are described as being limited to matters that are material. Items are considered material, regardless of size, if they involve an omission or misstatement of accounting information that, in light of surrounding circumstances, makes it probable that the judgment of a reasonable person relying on the information would be changed or influenced by the omission or misstatement.

We confirm, to the best of our knowledge and belief, as of [Date of Accountant's Review Report], the following representations made to you during your review.

- 1) We acknowledge our responsibility and have fulfilled our responsibilities for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, as set out in the terms of the engagement.
- 2) We have made available to you all—
 - a) Financial records and related data.
 - b) Minutes of the meetings, or summaries of actions of recent meetings for which minutes have not yet been prepared, of stockholders, directors, and committees of directors (or other similar bodies, as applicable).
 - c) Additional information you have requested from us for the purpose of the review.
 - d) Unrestricted access to company personnel from whom you determined it necessary to obtain review evidence.
- 3) There have been no communications from regulatory agencies concerning noncompliance with, or deficiencies in, financial reporting practices.
- 4) All material transactions have been recorded and have been properly reflected in the financial statements.
- 5) There are no uncorrected misstatements.
- 6) We acknowledge and have fulfilled our responsibility for designing, implementing, and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.
- 7) We acknowledge our responsibility for designing, implementing, and maintaining internal control to prevent and detect fraud.

P.O. Box 2078 ♦ Temecula, CA 92593-2078
Ph: 951-387-8992 ♦ www.TEAMRCD.org



- 8) We have no knowledge of any fraud or suspected fraud affecting the company involving management, employees who have significant roles in internal control, or others where the fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements, including any communications received from employees, former employees, or others.
- 9) We have no plans or intentions that may materially affect the carrying value or classification of assets and liabilities.
- 10) The following have been properly recorded or disclosed in the financial statements:
 - a) Related-party transactions and related accounts receivable or payable, including sales, purchases, loans, transfers, leasing arrangements, and guarantees.
 - b) Guarantees, whether written or oral, under which the District is contingently liable to a bank or other lending institutions.
 - c) Commitments to purchase or sell investments or agreements to repurchase assets previously sold.
 - d) Significant estimates and material concentrations known to management that are required to be disclosed in accordance with [FASB ASC 275](#) , *Risks and Uncertainties*.
- 11) There are no—
 - a) Known or suspected instances of noncompliance with laws or regulations whose effects should be considered for disclosure in the financial statements or as a basis for recording a loss contingency.
 - b) Actual or possible claims or assessments that our lawyer has advised us are probable of assertion and must be disclosed in accordance with [FASB ASC 450, Contingencies](#) .
 - c) Other material liabilities or gain or loss contingencies that are required to be accrued or disclosed by [FASB ASC 450, Contingencies](#) .
- 12) The District has satisfactory title to all owned assets, and there are no liens or encumbrances on such assets nor has any asset been pledged.
- 13) We have complied with all aspects of contractual agreements that would have a material effect on the financial statements in the event of noncompliance.
- 14) We have identified all accounting estimates that could be material to the financial statements, including the key factors and significant assumptions underlying those estimates, and we believe the estimates are reasonable in the circumstances.
- 15) We are in agreement with the adjusting journal entries, if any, you have recommended, and they have been posted to the District's accounts.
- 16) No events have occurred subsequent to the date of the District's financial statements and through the date of this letter that would require adjustments to, or disclosure in, the aforementioned financial statements.
- 17) We have responded fully and truthfully to all inquiries made to us by you during your review.
- 18) In regards to the financial statement preparation services performed by you, we have:
 - Assumed all management responsibilities.
 - Overseen the services by designating an individual who possesses suitable skill, knowledge, and/or experience.

P.O. Box 2078 ♦ Temecula, CA 92593-2078

Ph: 951-387-8992 ♦ www.TEAMRCD.org



- Evaluated the adequacy and results of the services performed.
- Accepted responsibility for the results of the services.

Signature: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

OATH OF OFFICE

(Required by Article XX, Constitution of California)

For the Office of: Temecula-Elsinore-Anza-Murrieta Resource Conservation District

State of California)
) ss.
County of Riverside)

I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of California against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of California; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties upon which I am about to enter.

STACY KUHN

PRINTED NAME

Stacy Kuhn

SIGNATURE

42405 INDIAN HILL TRAIL AGUANGA CA 92536

RESIDENCE ADDRESS

Subscribed and sworn to before me on 10 January, 20 18

Tiffany Morales

Signature of Authorized Official

Deputy

Title of Authorized Official

Certificate of Completion



This is to certify that

Ms. Rose Corona

has completed the course

Webinar: Required Harassment Prevention Training

Completion Date

01/23/2018

California Special Districts Association

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BY AND
BETWEEN THE WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY
REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY AND
THE TEMECULA-ELSINORE-ANZA-MURRIETA
RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
REGARDING HABITAT MANAGEMENT PURSUANT
TO THE WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY HABITAT
CONSERVATION PLAN**

This Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") is entered into by and between the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority ("RCA"), a public agency and joint powers authority, and the Temecula-Elsinore-Anza-Murrieta Resource Conservation District ("Reserve Manager"), a California resource conservation district, as of the date set forth below. RCA and Reserve Manager are sometimes referred to in this MOU individually as a "Party," or collectively as the "Parties."

R E C I T A L S

WHEREAS, RCA is a public agency and joint powers authority created pursuant to the provisions of Government Code section 6500 et seq. The RCA is composed of seventeen (17) member agencies, including the County of Riverside and sixteen cities within the western part of the County, for purposes of wildlife and plant life conservation and to provide primary policy direction for implementation of the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan ("MSHCP"); and

WHEREAS, Reserve Manager is a California resource conservation district created and authorized pursuant to Public Resources Code section 9001 et seq., with a service area covering approximately 789 square miles in northwestern Riverside County; and

WHEREAS, the Parties share a common interest in sustaining the integrity of regional biological and natural systems and the human and economic values they support in Western Riverside County; and

WHEREAS, the MSHCP, of which RCA was a signatory, went into effect in June 2004, and was designed to meet the challenge of rapid urbanization by providing for the conservation of significant habitat and the preservation of endangered, threatened, and rare species in a coordinated and efficient manner; and

WHEREAS, one of RCA's primary responsibilities is to acquire or document the acquisition of property for assembly of the MSHCP Conservation Area, including lands qualifying as Additional Reserve Lands, defined as conserved habitat totaling approximately 153,000 acres needed to meet the goals and objectives of the MSHCP (MSHCP Implementing Agreement, section 3.3 at p. 4), and Public/Quasi-Public Lands, meaning that subset of MSHCP Conservation Area lands totaling approximately 347,000 acres of lands known to be in public/private ownership and expected to be managed for open space value and/or in a manner that contributes to the conservation of species covered by the MSHCP (MSHCP Implementing Agreement, section 3.90 at p. 13); and

WHEREAS, efforts to coordinate conservation programs among local, state, and federal agencies in California are well-established. This MOU establishes a partnership between the RCA and Reserve Manager to cooperate in the implementation of the MSHCP; and

WHEREAS, one of RCA's responsibilities is to encourage the exchange of information regarding Public/Quasi-Public (POP) Lands, meaning that subset of MSHCP Conservation Area lands totaling approximately 347,000 acres of lands known to be in public/private ownership and that are managed for conservation and/or open space value and/or in a manner that contributes to the conservation of species covered by the MSHCP (MSHCP Implementing Agreement, section 3.90 at p. 13); and

WHEREAS, one purpose of this MOU is to encourage the Reserve Manager to manage self-sustaining conservation areas with three primary management goals, 1) maintain or improve habitat conditions and ecosystems functions within the MSHCP Conservation Area, 2) manage natural processes so that species diversity is maintained along with overall ecosystem health, 3) reduce disturbance regimes and minimize threats that affect habitats and natural communities in the MSHCP Conservation Area; and

WHEREAS, as further identified in Exhibit "A," Reserve Manager owns certain parcels of land in fee title or under conservation easements that are located outside of the Criteria Cells and which qualify as Public/Quasi-Public Lands pursuant to MSHCP Implementing Agreement section 3.90 page 13 ("POP Lands"); and

WHEREAS, in addition to POP Interests, and as further identified in Exhibit "B" Reserve Manager owns certain parcels of land in fee title or under conservation easements that are located within the Criteria Cells ("ARL Lands"); and

WHEREAS, a second purpose of this MOU is to confer take to Reserve Manager pursuant to Sections 13.1 and 18.0 of the Implementing Agreement to conduct management and monitoring activities on Reserve Manager-controlled property in compliance with the Implementing Agreement, the Permits and the MSHCP (including, but not limited to, page 7-66); and

WHEREAS, the Parties desire to enter into this MOU to satisfy the goal of management and adaptive management practices of conserved land in accordance with Section 5.2 of the MSHCP.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the covenants and conditions set forth herein, RCA and Reserve Manager hereto agree as follows:

1. Incorporation of Recitals. The Parties hereby affirm the facts set forth in the Recitals above and agree to the incorporation of the Recitals as though fully set forth herein.
2. Definitions. Unless otherwise defined by this MOU, all capitalized terms in this MOU will have the same definition as the MSHCP and the Implementing Agreement. Specifically,

(a) “General Management Measures” is defined in Section 5 of the MSHCP, specifically starting at page 5-4.

(b) “Habitat” is defined in Section 3.53 of the Implementing Agreement.

3. Authority. This MOU does not modify or supersede existing statutory direction of the signatories.

4. Management.

(a) Management Goals. The overriding management goal of the MSHCP is to establish and maintain a self-sustaining MSHCP Conservation Area, which focuses on conserving Covered Species and their Habitats. In furtherance of the satisfaction of this goal, Reserve Manager agrees to manage its PQP and ARL Lands consistent with the MSHCP by maintaining and/or improving habitat conditions and ecosystem functions on such lands.

(1) The RCA agrees to provide any available digital files and hard copy maps of the PQP and ARL Lands to Reserve Manager upon request. Reserve Manager likewise agrees to provide the RCA with any available digital files and hard copy maps of the same. The Reserve Manager will provide updated information by December 31 of each year.

(2) Reserve Manager further agrees to provide any further information it possesses regarding types of vegetation and quality of vegetation on the lands it manages within the MSHCP Plan Area to the RCA.

(b) General Management Measures. In connection with its management of the PQP and ARL Lands, Reserve Manager will not undertake any action that will be adverse to the General Management Measures identified in Section 5 of the MSHCP, which General Management Measures address the processes, threats, and disturbances that affect habitat and on sustaining sufficient species diversity to maintain the health of the particular ecosystem. Reserve Manager’s management will include reasonable measures to control disturbance regimes that include illegal trespass (e.g., dumping, vandalism and off-road vehicle use); altering the natural fire regime (fires too frequent or too infrequent); and habitat disturbance. Typical responses to these disturbance regimes may include, in Reserve Manager’s discretion, controlling public access through appropriate fencing, gates, and signage, and trash removal.

(c) Monitoring. Reserve Manager will grant a right of entry onto the PQP and ARL Lands by RCA staff, or its designees, to carry out biological monitoring activities required by the MSHCP.

5. Management Take. Reserve Manager agrees to comply with the MSHCP Management Guidance Document (October 2010, or any amendment or updates thereto), Implementation for Non-RCA Participating Reserve Managers, when requesting take for management activities.

6. Costs and Expenses. The Parties agree that additional costs that may be related to or a result of “Adaptive Management” or increased management costs which may occur under the Adaptive Management Program (Section 5.2 of the MSHCP) may be agreed to in

advance of implementation and reimbursed to the Reserve Manager by the RCA from MSHCP Reserve Management Budget funds approved by the RCA Board.

7. Term. The term of this MOU shall continue for the life of the 75 year permit (i.e., until 2079). The Parties intend for this MOU to remain enforceable for the life of the MSHCP and any successor conservation plan.

8. Termination. This MOU can be terminated by either party with 90-days' notice. Take granted for monitoring or management to the Reserve Manager will terminate on the same date as the MOU termination.

9. Dispute Resolution. The Parties will work collaboratively to resolve issues associated with management take by taking the following steps:

(a) The Parties will make every effort to expeditiously resolve any disagreements. If resolution cannot be accomplished promptly during regularly scheduled meetings and conference calls, a further attempt to reach resolution will be promptly attempted in an interim meeting or conference call dedicated to the purpose of resolving the disagreement. All Parties agree to elevate the decision to successively higher levels within each organization until consensus is reached.

10. Notices. The persons and their addresses having authority to give and receive notices under this MOU are:

Reserve Manager:

Temecula-Elsinore-Anza-Murrieta
Resource Conservation District
P.O. Box 2078
Temecula, CA 92593-2078
Phone: (951) 387-8992

RCA:

Western Riverside County Regional
Conservation Authority
Attention: Executive Director
P.O. Box 1667
3403 Tenth St., Suite 320
Riverside, CA 92502-1667
Phone: (951) 955-9700
Facsimile: (951) 955-8873

Any notices from either Party to the other shall be given in writing to the attention of the persons listed above, or to other such addresses or addressees as may hereafter be designated in writing for notices by either Party to the other. Notice shall be served personally, sent by facsimile, overnight mail by a reputable courier, or by first class mail, postage prepaid.

11. Indemnification. RCA shall indemnify and hold Reserve Manager, its officers, agents and employees free and harmless from liability to any person or entity not a Party to this MOU from any damage, loss or injury to person and/or property which relates to or arises from the negligence or willful misconduct of the RCA, its officers, agents or employees in the execution or implementation of this MOU; Reserve Manager shall indemnify and hold RCA, its officers, agents, or employees free and harmless from liability to any person or entity not a Party to this MOU from any damage, loss or injury to person and/or property which relates to

or arises from the negligence or willful misconduct of Reserve Manager, its officers, agents or employees in the execution or implementation of this MOU.

12. Authority. This MOU does not modify or supersede existing statutory direction to any signatory to the MSHCP or the provisions of the MSHCP and is voluntarily entered into between the Parties.

13. Miscellaneous.

(a) Neither Party may assign its rights or obligations under this MOU without the express written consent of the other Party.

(b) This MOU contains the entire understanding between the Parties with respect to its subject matter, and supersedes all prior agreements, oral or written, and all prior or contemporaneous discussions or negotiations between the Parties. This MOU cannot be amended except in writing signed by both Parties.

(c) The Parties shall fully cooperate with one another, and shall take any additional acts or sign any additional documents as may be necessary, appropriate, or convenient to attain the purposes of this MOU.

(d) If any portion of this MOU is declared invalid, illegal, or otherwise unenforceable by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remaining provisions shall continue in full force and effect.

(e) No waiver of any default shall constitute a waiver of any other default or breach, whether of the same or other covenant or condition. No waiver, benefit, privilege, or service voluntarily given or performed by a Party shall give the other Party any contractual rights by custom, estoppel, or otherwise.


(f) This MOU and all documents executed and delivered in connection herewith shall be governed by the laws of the State of California. The Parties agree to the jurisdiction and venue of the appropriate court(s) in the County of Riverside, State of California.

(g) If any legal action or other proceeding is brought for the enforcement of this MOU, the prevailing Party shall be entitled to recover reasonable attorneys' fees, expenses, and other costs incurred in that action or proceeding in addition to any other relief to which such Party may be entitled.


SIGNATURE PAGE FOR THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BY AND BETWEEN THE WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY AND THE TEMECULA-ELSINORE-ANZA-MURRIETA RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT REGARDING HABITAT MANAGEMENT PURSUANT TO THE WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have executed this Memorandum of Understanding as of the last date set forth below ("Effective Date").

TEMECULA-ELSINORE-ANZA-MURRIETA RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT, a California resource conservation district

Date: 8-11-16
By: 
Name: Rose Corona
Rose Corona
President

Approved as to Form:

Name: 
Melissa R. Cushman
Deputy County Counsel

WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY, a public agency and joint powers authority

Date: 1/8/18
By: Charles V. Landry
Name: Charles V. Landry
Charles V. Landry
Executive Director

Approved as to Form:

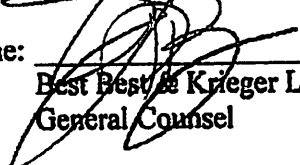
Name: 
Best Best & Krieger LLP
General Counsel

EXHIBIT A
PQP LANDS

LEGAL DESCRIPTION AND DEPICTION OF PROPERTY

Conservation Easement PCE-076 Greer Ranch PQP (A-1)

Rough Step Unit #6

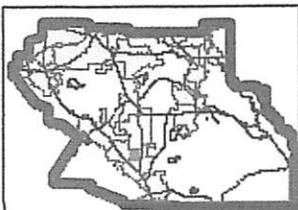
City of
Wildomar

City of
Murrieta

392-090-013
9.79 ac m/l

MSHCP 2012 VEGETATION TYPES	ACRES
Agricultural Land	0.26
Developed/Disturbed Land	3.23
Riparian Scrub, Woodland, Forest	1.77
Woodland and Forests	4.52
Total	9.79
MSHCP BASELINE VEGETATION TYPES	ACRES
Chaparral	5.38
Coastal Sage Scrub	3.87
Developed or Disturbed Land	0.54
Total	9.79

November 8, 2016



RC00000000

- Project Site
- RCA / MSHCP Conserved Lands
- Public/Quasi-Public Conserved Lands
- RCA / MSHCP Conservation Easements
- Criteria Cells
- Cities



0 1,600 Feet

Detail Number PCE-076
Acres 9.79 Acres approx.
Record Date 3/27/2009
Project Name Lennar Greer Ranch PQP CE
Source of Funding Donation
Area Plan Southwest
Management Unit Menifee
GIS Project-ID PCE-076
JPR

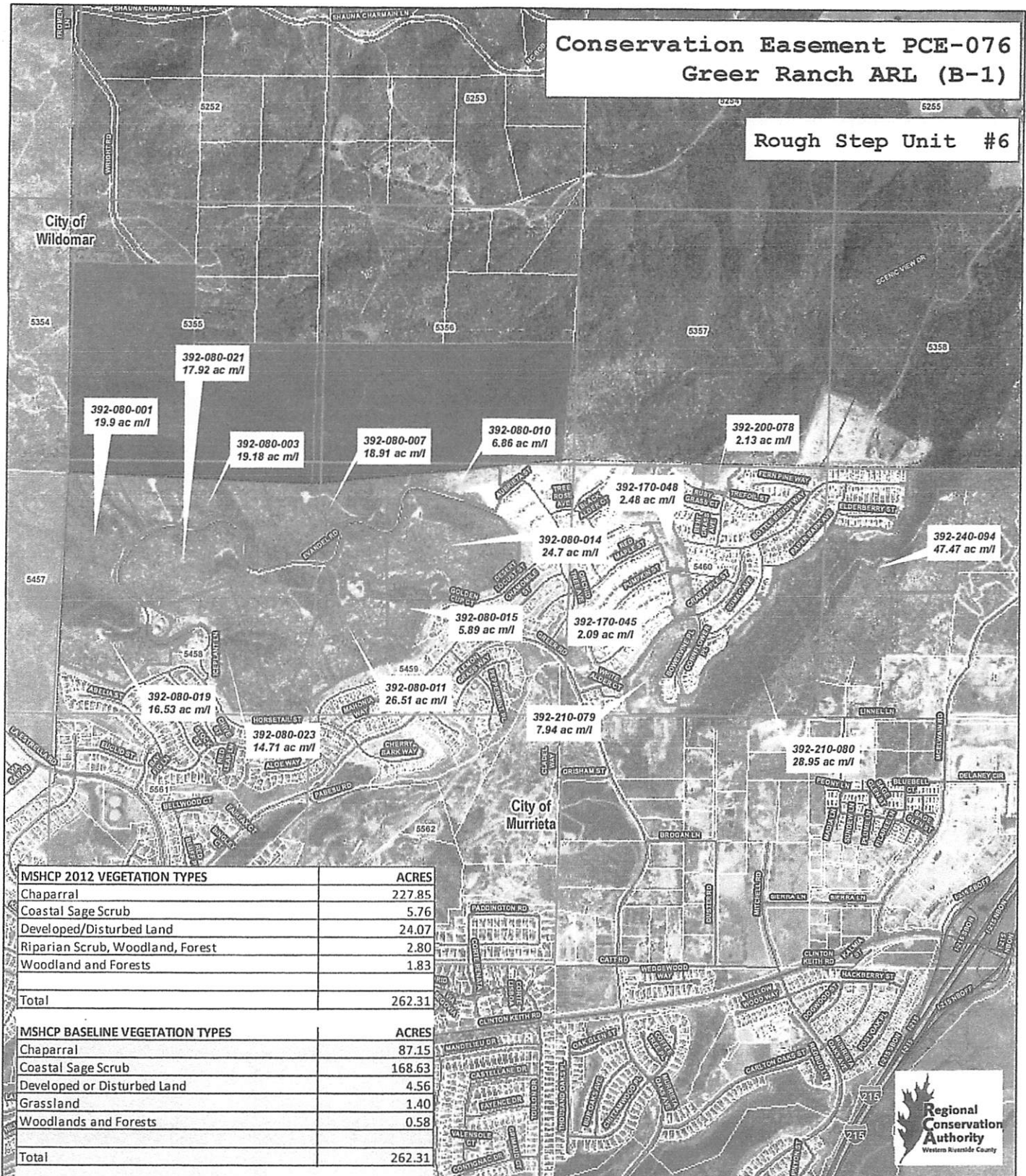


EXHIBIT B
ARL LANDS

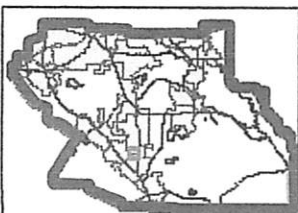
LEGAL DESCRIPTION AND DEPICTION OF PROPERTY

Conservation Easement PCE-076 Greer Ranch ARL (B-1)

Rough Step Unit #6



November 8, 2016



- Project Site
- RCA / MSHCP Conserved Lands
- Public/Quasi-Public Conserved Lands
- RCA / MSHCP Conservation Easements
- Criteria Cells
- Cities

0 1,600 Feet



Detail Number	PCE-076
Acres	262.17 Acres approx.
Record Date	3/27/2009
Project Name	Lennar Greer Ranch
Source of Funding	Donation
Area Plan	Southwest
Management Unit	Menifee
GIS Project-ID	PCE-076
JPR	

RC00000000

CORRESPONDENCE

GENERAL

Subject **eResource - This Week's NACD News Briefs**
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Date 2018-01-02 11:17



The NACD eResource

Weekly news briefs from the National Association of Conservation Districts

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS UPDATE



Days before the end of 2017, President Trump signed another short-term Continuing Resolution (CR), authorizing the federal government to continue to be funded at current levels. This CR is set to keep the government open through January 19, avoiding a government shutdown and allowing Congress more time to consider the federal budget for 2018. NACD Director of Government Affairs Coleman Garrison penned a [Congressional update blog](#), providing an overview of this CR and the legislation Congress is expected to take up with the start of the new year.

With the first week of 2018, it is important to remember a few deadlines that will come to pass shortly. On Friday, January 5, the public comment period ends for both the USFS' EIS notice on LMPs for Greater Sage-Grouse conservation and the

-->

NACD is hiring!

NACD is currently seeking experienced Executive Assistant candidates. A complete position description and application details are [available here](#).

Please email a resume and two writing samples to hr@nacdn.net.org by this **Friday, January 5**, to receive priority for interviews.

Mark your calendar: Source Water Collaborative webinar



Next Thursday, January 11, join the Source Water Collaborative at 1:30 pm Eastern for a webinar entitled "Conservation Grant Funding and Drinking Water Utilities: Partnering for Success."

The webinar will showcase efforts

USFWS' mitigation policies. If your local conservation district or state association would like to submit comments, they can be done [here for sage-grouse](#) and [here for mitigation policies](#). NACD's comments on these policies can be found in our [Newsroom](#).

USDA is also accepting [Conservation Innovation Grant applications](#) through February 28, 2018 and will hold a [webinar for potential applicants](#) on January 11, 2018. More information will be available in next week's edition of eResource.

ARE YOU READY FOR NASHVILLE?

NACD's [Annual Meeting](#) is only weeks away, but there's still time to make preparations for your visit to Nashville!



If this will be your first time attending an NACD Annual Meeting, you may be eligible for a first-timer scholarship. Thanks to the generous support of Agri Drain, one first-time meeting attendee from each state/territory will be granted a full registration and Appreciation Banquet dinner ticket at no cost.

Interested in applying? Contact your state association to see if a scholarship is still available. Together with the state's NACD board member, the state association will determine if you qualify and submit your name and email to [NACD Director of Membership Kimberly Uldricks](#).

This Friday, January 5 is the last day to secure your room at the Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center. To complete your reservation, [click here](#), or call 1-888-777-6779 and identify yourself with NACD. NACD has also secured an additional room block at the Hyatt Place Nashville/Opryland for \$174 per night. [Click here](#) to reserve a room or call 615-872-0422. A complimentary shuttle to and from the Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center will be available.

of drinking water utilities and conservation groups who partner with farming operations and landowners to protect their water supplies. This free webinar is part of the National Source Water Collaborative Learning Exchange webinar series. [Click here to register](#).

Chesapeake Bay Commission releases report on conservation technical assistance

The Chesapeake Bay Commission recently released a new report on agriculture conservation technical assistance, highlighting the work of conservation districts – and the need for more assistance – to achieve nutrient and sediment reductions within the total maximum daily load goals.

The November 2017 report “Boots on the Ground: Improving Technical Assistance for Farmers” is available for download [here on the Chesapeake Bay Commission's website](#).

Browse NACD's Live Auction donations

The [2018 NACD Live Auction](#) is just weeks away! Held January 29 with returning auctioneer Johnny Regula, this year's auction is sure to bring you all of the goodies Santa forgot to leave under your tree.

Questions about parking and transportation? For details on self-parking, downtown shuttles, or shuttles to and from Nashville International Airport, [visit our Annual Meeting website](#).

2018 RCPP PROJECTS SELECTED

USDA has selected Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) projects for 2018 totaling \$220 million across 91 selected projects. Conservation districts or the state associations of conservation districts will lead 23 of these projects in 2018 from across all seven of NACD's regions. Totalling \$40.59 million, these projects will assist with water quality, wildfire mitigation, landscape-scale grassland restoration, drought resiliency, establishing wildlife habitat, and combating invasive species.

The conservation district-led projects also address soil health as it pertains to forest health, wildlife habitat, and stormwater management. Through the 2018 projects, districts will install more than 13,000 acres of cover crops. [Click here](#) to read the full list of projects and project descriptions; NACD extends our congratulations to all districts who had projects selected!

DID YOU KNOW?

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



Did you know that Minnesota's conservation districts are using new tools to work with their county boards to solicit more support, including additional funding, which will allow more conservation activities to be put on the ground?

The latest edition of [Did You Know?](#) was penned by Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) Board Conservationist Jason Weinerman, who describes how Minnesota BWSR has provided training to districts to create a conservation district advocacy tool box. Using a three-pronged approach, this tool box helps districts promote their work to county boards in consideration of annual budget



Donated items range from fine jewelry, like the beautiful pearl magnolia set pictured here, to home décor, hand-carved decoys, leather chaps, hunting necessities, and more! [Browse the current selection online](#).

Still looking for ways to donate? It's not too late for you, your organization, your district or state association – just contact [NACD Director of Development Melisa Augusto!](#)

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](#).

- North Central Region Meeting - January 4 - 5, 2018
- 2018 NACD Annual Meeting - January 27 - 31, 2018
- NACD Spring Fly-In - March 19 - 20, 2018

requests.

[Click here](#) to read more and to learn how you can adapt these practices for your own district.

- NACD Summer Meeting -
August 2 - 8, 2018

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For \$5, attendees are treated to a 90-minute guided tour of Michigan's Legacy Art Park in Thompsonville, led by **Benzie Conservation District Outreach Coordinator Aimé Merizon** (pictured above at left) and **Regional Forester Kama Ross** (above, right). Michigan Legacy Art Park is a sculpture park that houses more than 40 works of art. The 30-acre preserve woodland is 'dedicated to sharing the stories of the people, events and natural resources that continue to shape the legacy of Michigan.'

"We've partnered with Legacy Art Park for a couple years to entice people out into the woods," **said regional forester Kama Ross**. "It's a delightful day in the snow."

Last year's event attracted more than 20 people, including "Families with young kids and senior citizens," **said Ross**. "We had one group of three older women who had a great time in the woods." Merizon and Ross demonstrate tree identification and discuss how various wildlife rely on the woods for a home. Attendees can rent snowshoes from Crystal Mountain Park or bring their own equipment.

"It's a great opportunity to reach people and talk about forestry and our natural resources," **said Ross**.

Ross was hired in fall 2012 to assist the Wexford and Missaukee Conservation Districts through a Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development grant, known as the Forestry Assistance Program. A

interested in forest management. The first tour will take place at Erickson Fields Preserve, which includes about 2.5 miles of year-round, public access walking trails. [Read more>>>](#)

Oregon

- Grant
County
SWCD



assists
with local Firewise
program

The Grant County Firewise Communities program received \$40,531 from the federal Secure Rural Schools program. Kyle Sullivan at the Grant County Soil and Water Conservation District was hired for the map work, combining topography with county assessor data and other information. [Read more>>>](#)



Pennsylvania - Funding available to landowners for riparian buffers, tree plantings

The Mifflin County Conservation District was recently awarded three grants, totaling \$250,000, to help landowners design, install and maintain comprehensive riparian buffer projects. Funding is available to install livestock exclusion fencing and

year later she transferred to a new position covering three conservation districts: Benzie, Grand Traverse and Leelanau Counties. Through the shared position Ross is able to help private forest landowners assess their woodlands and explore eligible cost-share programs.

**USDA invests in wildfire mitigation and water quality through
2018 Joint Chiefs' Partnership**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will invest nearly \$32 million this year to mitigate wildfire risk, improve water quality, and restore healthy forest ecosystems in 24 states and Puerto Rico, according to a recent USDA press release. Since 2014, USDA has invested \$176 million in 56 Joint Chiefs' Landscape Restoration Partnership Projects, which focus on areas where public forests and grasslands intersect with privately-owned lands.

Conservation districts have been among the partners involved in numerous projects since the inception of the program. This year, districts are part of two projects: the Louisiana Native Pine Partnership Project and the Sublette County Forest Collaborative in Wyoming.

"Through these Joint Chief's projects, USDA will be working with local partners in high-risk project areas to control invasive species, install fire breaks and implement other targeted forest management practices to help mitigate the risk of wide-spread wildfires," **said Forest Service Chief Tony Tooke.** [Read more>>>](#)

**NACD Forestry Notes is interested in your conservation
district forestry videos**



associated best management practices (BMPs) such as grassed waterways, water diversions, stabilized stream crossings, stabilized animal walkways and alternative watering systems. Funding is also available for planting trees and shrubs along streams or waterways. [Read more>>>](#)

Forestry News

Human impacts on forests and grasslands much larger and older than previously assumed [\[link\]](#)

The impact of wildfires on the future of California real estate [\[link\]](#)

The revolutionary role of wood in our future [\[link\]](#)

"Agroforestry farms can be more productive than a monoculture" [\[link\]](#)

Calendar

February 14-18

[National Wild Turkey Federation Convention and Sport Show](#)

Nashville, Tennessee

February 21-22

[Midwestern Governors Association, Maximizing Forestry Resources in the Midwest](#)

Madison, Wisconsin

Forestry Notes plans to launch a YouTube channel in 2018 dedicated to content relevant to conservation district forestry professionals. The channel will house forestry videos made by conservation districts and state associations and other content suited for this audience. If you have content to share, please email the video file and description to **NACD Forestry Specialist Mike Beacom** at mike-beacom@nacdn.net.

March 7

Sustainable Urban Forests
Coalition (SUFC) Annual
Meeting

Washington, D.C.

March 20

NACD Spring Fly-In

Washington, D.C.

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

NACD Address:
509 Capitol Court,
NE
Washington, D.C.
20002
(202) 547-6223



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The NACD eResource

Weekly news briefs from the National Association of Conservation Districts

NACD'S ANNUAL MEETING IS LESS THAN THREE WEEKS AWAY!

NACD is pleased to announce that Dr. Sam Clovis, senior White House adviser to the United States Department of Agriculture, will be providing the keynote address for Tuesday's general session. To learn more about the confirmed and invited speakers for our 2018 Annual Meeting in Nashville, [click here](#).



NACD's [72nd Annual Meeting](#) is less than three weeks away, and you only have until this Friday, January 12, to [complete your registration](#). After this Friday, we will only be able to process registrations on-site at the Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center.

If you haven't completed your room reservation yet or need to make alterations to your reservation, both the Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center and the Hyatt Place Nashville/Opryland have extended their reservation deadlines to **Wednesday, January 10**. A limited number of rooms are still available, but reservations are on a first-come, first-serve basis. [Click](#)

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NACD offices closed Monday

NACD's offices will be closed next Monday, January 15, in observance of Martin Luther King Day.

Welcome to the team, Stephanie!

Last week, NACD welcomed Stephanie Addison to lead the communications team as the new director of communications.



[here](#) for hotel reservation and transportation information.

MICHIGAN HOSTS THE NACD NORTH CENTRAL REGION MEETING

The NACD North Central Region Board of Directors met in Grand Rapids, Michigan, January 4 – 5, 2018 for their annual region board meeting. The board utilizes this time as an opportunity to prepare for the NACD Annual Meeting which is held later in the month in Nashville, Tennessee, by discussing state resolutions for NACD, emerging legislative issues and topics of state and regional significance.

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA regions 5 and 7), the National Association of State Conservation Agencies (NASCA) and the National Conservation District Employees Association (NCDEA) were all represented by state, regional and national leadership, sharing background information on upcoming initiatives, programs and changes within agencies and associations.



The North Central Region Board also invited two guest speakers to attend, providing the attendees with a valuable time of learning and discussion. Barry Fisher (pictured), USDA NRCS Central Regional Soil Health Team Leader, presented on the topic of "Building a Successful Conservation System to

Addison joins NACD from the House Agriculture Committee where she served as the deputy press secretary for the past two years. Prior to that, she worked for the congressional offices of Representative Jeb Hensarling (TX-5) and Representative Randy Neugebauer (TX-19).

As a West Texan from the heart of cotton country, Addison recognizes the significant role agriculture has within rural America. She brings a unique perspective to NACD as someone who grew up on a cotton farm and cattle ranch her family has operated since 1914.

You can reach Stephanie in our Washington, D.C., office or by email at Stephanie-Addison@nacdnet.org.

Don't forget! CIG webinar Thursday

In December, NRCS announced \$10 million in funding for Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) in three focus areas: grazing lands, organic systems and soil health. Grant proposals are due February 26, and NRCS is hosting a webinar for potential grant applicants on Thursday, January 11 at 4 pm Eastern. Registration is free; [click here](#) to join the webinar.

NCF-Envirothon showcased on Maryland Public Television

In December, NCF-Envirothon was featured on the show "Maryland Farm and Harvest," broadcasted by Maryland Public Television. The episode showcased the national competition hosted by Maryland

Regenerate Soil Health for You,” which took soil health beyond the basics into some technical strategies for building soil health.

Mary Judnich from Senator Debbie Stabenow’s office in Grand Rapids, Michigan, led a Farm Bill session with attendees, sharing the latest update from the Senator as the ranking member of the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry. With a list of [NACD’s Farm Bill Principles](#) as a place to start, attendees held a healthy discussion on what to expect, next steps and how to engage in the passage of the next Farm Bill.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: OUTREACH TO URBAN COMMUNITIES WEBINAR

If one of your professional resolutions for 2018 is to reach a broader audience, tune in to the next NACD Urban and Community Conservation webinar. Scheduled for 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. EST on January 18, the topic is “Outreach to Urban Communities”.

The Pierce CD in the state of Washington developed best practices for connecting to multilingual urban agriculture communities. To build lasting relationships and bridge communities, they strive for equity in outreach and shared decision-making.

In Minnesota, the Washington CD has worked to engage Homeowners’ Associations (apartments, condos and townhomes) through a “Green Communities” project. Outreach has been driven by feedback from focus groups, which identified barriers and opportunities for clean water projects.

These popular webinars, held on the third Thursday of each month, are sponsored by The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company in partnership with the NACD Urban and Community Resource Policy Group. There is no cost to participate, but space is limited. Registration will be accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis. To register, email Debra Bogar at deb-bogar@nacdn.org WITH your name, title, district or business name, state and email address. Information to access the webinar will be sent by email.

in the summer of 2017 and shows highlights of the farm where the training was held, footage of the students, as well as narration from Barry Burch, co-chair of Maryland Envirothon. Penncrest High School from Pennsylvania took home the top honors, with New York and New Mexico placing second and third, respectively.

To view the full program, [click here](#).

USDA to release farm bill principles

At this week’s American Farm Bureau Federation meeting, Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue stated that USDA will soon release a set of farm bill principles to guide the Senate and House committees as they begin drafting legislation.

Secretary Perdue also indicated that he will soon release operational details for the new Farm Production and Conservation (FPAC) mission area. Iowa Agriculture Secretary Bill Northey, the nominee for undersecretary for the FPAC mission area, would oversee the Farm Service Agency, Risk Management Agency and Natural Resources Conservation Service if confirmed.

You can listen to the Secretary's remarks by [clicking here](#).

Complete your Ag Census

The USDA conducts the Census of Agriculture every five years. The census is the only complete count of U.S. farms and ranches and the people who operate them. The 2017 Ag Census surveys have been sent out; be sure to

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The NACD eResource

Weekly news briefs from the National Association of Conservation Districts

NACD'S ANNUAL MEETING HAS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!



NACD's Annual Meeting is only two weeks away! As you prepare to arrive in Nashville, visit [our Annual Meeting website](#) to plan your stay.

While you're in Nashville, you won't want to miss our

incredible speakers! During Monday's General Session, you'll hear an inspirational keynote from country singer Shea Fisher and rodeo star Tyson Durfey. At the Leadership Luncheon that afternoon, Living Lands and Waters Founder and President Chad Pregracke will provide a presentation overviewing the significance of land stewardship.

Tuesday morning's General Session will feature Dr. Sam Clovis, Senior White House Advisor to the United States Department of Agriculture, and a Farm Bill Policy and Sustainability Panel, moderated by National Association of Farm Broadcasting (NAFB) President Tom Cassidy. The panel will consist of National Wild Turkey Federation Director of

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Save the date – Spring Fly-In March 20

NACD's Spring Fly-In is only weeks away! If you plan on attending, please prepare to arrive in Washington, D.C., on Monday, March 19 to be ready for Tuesday morning's activities. Please [email NACD Director of Government Affairs Coleman Garrison](#) with any questions, and stay tuned to future editions of eResource for more information.

Continuing Resolution expires Friday

After passing two consecutive Continuing Resolutions (CRs) to keep the government open and funded at current levels while Congress considers the federal budget, time is running out to pass final legislation. Congress has until Friday, January 19, to agree upon a budget for Fiscal Year 2018 (FY18) and get the bill to President Trump's desk for his signature, or a government shutdown will ensue.

Government Affairs Joel Pedersen; Ducks Unlimited National Government Affairs Director Dan Wrinn; Field to Market President Rod Snyder and 9B Group Partner Pelham Straughn.

And, of course, it's not called Music City for nothing! Our 72nd Annual Meeting will feature performances by The Sunshine Girls, a bluegrass band, during Monday's Leadership Luncheon and Shea Fisher (pictured here) during Tuesday's Appreciation Banquet.

NACD ATTENDS STATE MEETINGS

NACD representatives traveled the country to attend state meetings last week.

NACD First Vice President Tim Palmer and NACD South Central Region Representative Keith Owen attended the 72nd Annual Meeting of the Louisiana Association of Conservation Districts. Palmer addressed the meeting with a NACD Report and sat on a 2018 Conservation Title panel discussion with Dr. Mike Strain, DVM Commissioner of the Louisiana Department of Ag and Forestry and Kevin Norton, NRCS State Conservationist for LA. The meeting included breakout sessions covering a range of topics, including "Saving Our Coast, the Future of Water Use in Louisiana" and an Education and Stewardship track.

The LACD meeting recognized local leaders in conservation, including a Master Farmer Awards Lunch celebrating outstanding individuals in agriculture who have worked to become certified through the program, and an LACD Awards Dinner for outstanding Board Members, District Employees and other conservation partners.

First Vice President Tim Palmer also attended the 74th Annual Meeting of the North Carolina Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, held January 7 – 9 in Durham. He addressed meeting attendees, describing NACD's recent Technical Assistance grants and their farm bill requests. Palmer also sat in on resolutions development meetings for NCASWCD.

\$3 million in funding now available

The U.S. EPA is pleased to announce that up to \$3 million in funding for locally-focused environmental education grants under the 2018 EE Local Grant Program is now available.

In addition to other environmental topics, the 2018 EE Local Grant Program includes support for projects that reflect the intersection of environmental issues and agricultural best-practices, conservation of natural resources, food waste management and natural disaster preparedness. Funded projects will increase public awareness of those topics and help participants to develop the skills needed to make informed decisions.

A Request for Proposals (also called a Solicitation Notice) containing details will be issued by each of the ten EPA Regions. Through this grant program, EPA intends to provide financial support for projects that design, demonstrate; and/or disseminate environmental education practices, methods, or techniques, as described in this notice, that will serve to increase environmental and conservation literacy, and encourage behavior that will benefit the environment in the local community/ies in which they are located. EPA will award three to four grants in each of EPA's ten Regions, for no less than \$50,000 and no more than \$100,000 each, for a total of 30-35 grants nationwide. Proposals are due March 15, 2018.

South Dakota Envirothon profiled on TV program

NACD Director of Government Affairs Coleman Garrison traveled to Indianapolis for the 2018 Annual Conference of Indiana SWCDs. Garrison provided an update on NACD's programs, including an overview of the Members Only section of the website, and led a breakout session detailing how districts can advocate for conservation legislation.



RAMSEY CONSERVATION DISTRICT, MINNESOTA

The Ramsey Conservation District (RCD) partnered with local non-profit Urban Roots on a demonstration project for urban agriculture education. The site is coordinated through Urban Roots' youth leadership program, which targets teens from East St. Paul for paid internships in growing, harvesting and preparing produce. The program helps young people create a more sustainable and independent food system in their neighborhood.



In addition to the establishment of the demonstration site (pictured), the RCD built a network among the major urban farms and community gardens within Ramsey County. The farm and garden managers met

Last week, the South Dakota Envirothon program was featured on a local NBC affiliate, NewsCenter1. The spotlight discussed the history of the NCF-Envirothon in South Dakota, talked about the upcoming state competition that will be held in May at Sioux Falls, and interviewed a local Envirothon team. To view the full story, [click here](#).

Job posting: Wisconsin executive director

Wisconsin Land+Water is seeking a new Executive Director based in Madison to oversee the association's day-to-day affairs. Applications must be received by February 1. [Click here](#) for more details and the full position description.

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](#).

- 2018 NACD Annual Meeting - January 27 - 31
- NACD Spring Fly-In - March 19 - 20
- Stewardship Week - April 29 - May 5
- NACD Summer Meeting - August 2 - 8

with RCD staff to discuss their needs, accomplishments, and share information for future collaboration. The RCD assisted these managers in seeking certifications that make them eligible for future funding through the NRCS and Department of Agriculture. The RCD also provided grant funds to the farms and gardens for intensive soil building, a high efficiency composting program, pollinator habitat and more.

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NACD'S ANNUAL MEETING BEGINS FRIDAY!

It's finally here! The 72nd Annual Meeting of the National Association of Conservation Districts begins this Friday, and we can't wait to see you in Nashville.



While you're preparing to depart for the Music City, please visit our [Annual Meeting webpage](#), where you can view the final [Annual Meeting program](#), the [Live Auction catalog](#), and more.

As you pack for your time in Nashville, don't forget to leave room in your suitcase for your favorite titles in conservation! Books donated to [NACD's Pack-a-Book program](#) will be donated to Dodson Branch School, a Pre-K to eighth grade school in Jackson County, home to 290 students.

The Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center is an expansive property, so be sure to pack comfortable shoes and take any needed medications or equipment with you, especially if you'll be attending one of our eight tours around the state of Tennessee.

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Welcome to NACD, Diya!



Last week, NACD welcomed a new executive assistant to the team, **Diya Ram**. Diya grew up abroad in Nepal, India and Kenya, and moved to the United States in 2011. Diya attended Wellesley College, where she studied political science with a focus on environmental policy. Diya will be attending our Annual Meeting in Nashville and looks forward to meeting our members; you can reach out to her at diya-ram@nacdn.net.org.

CSP sign-up open

NRCS has announced that 2018

There are plenty of transportation and parking options to get you around Nashville and to and from the airport! Visit our [Annual Meeting website](#) for information on shuttles, parking, and public transportation and to reserve your tickets.

MISSISSIPPI, DELAWARE HOST ANNUAL MEETINGS

The 73rd Annual Meeting of the Mississippi Association of Conservation Districts (MACD) was held Jan. 17 - 18 in Jackson, Miss. The meeting featured a variety of breakout sessions, training opportunities, partner exhibits, and an interactive "Family Feud" game (pictured).



Additionally, awards were presented to the many outstanding districts, employees, legislators and partners of MACD. **NACD Secretary-Treasurer Kim LaFleur** addressed the general session to provide updates on NACD internal and legislative activities.

Last Tuesday, **NACD Northeast Region Representative and Policy Specialist Eric Hansen** attended the Delaware Association of Conservation District's (DACD) annual meeting in Dover, Del. He presented district supervisor service pins and introduced NRCS' new video on Hugh Hammond Bennett. At the meeting, DACD recognized outgoing **State President Robert Emerson** and outgoing **Executive Director Robert**

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) applications are due by March 2nd for consideration this year. While CSP applications are accepted year-round, NRCS ranks and evaluates them as a batch annually. For more information on CSP, [click here](#).

Animal waste emissions reporting

If you're a livestock operator, you may have heard recently about an air emissions reporting requirement that may be coming soon. A court action is expected imminently that will either further delay the requirement or begin requiring many farms with animal operations across the United States to report emissions from animal waste. Although it is currently unclear which direction the court may go, the [EPA has online tools](#) to help animal agriculture producers determine if this requirement may apply to their operation.

Welcome to our new Friend of NACD!

Welcome to our newest **Friend of NACD**, Frederick T. Mott!

Baldwin for their service.

Interested in seeing the Hugh Hammond Bennett film? NACD will host a screening on Sunday, Jan. 28 at 8:00 p.m. onsite at the Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center.

WOTUS COURT UPDATE

Yesterday, the Supreme Court issued a ruling which settles the question of whether Waters of the US (WOTUS) lawsuits should be heard in federal district courts or federal courts of appeal. The decision that it is the federal district courts which have jurisdiction does not address the merits of whether the 2015 rule is constitutional and does not impact the Trump Administration's efforts to repeal the rule. However, it does create some uncertainty because the current nationwide stay of the rule was issued by an appeals court and with this ruling, that court must now lift this stay. For more information on this subject, [click here](#).

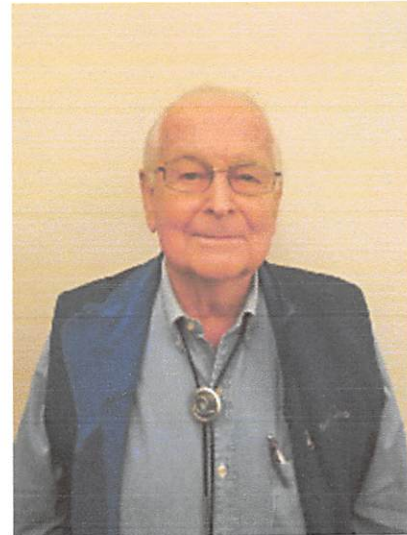
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SHUTS DOWN, REOPENS

On Friday, Jan. 19, Congress failed to pass legislation funding the government. As a result, the government was shut down until an agreement was reached yesterday afternoon and signed into law yesterday evening by President Donald Trump. This bill, another continuing resolution, funds the federal government at current levels until Thursday, Feb. 8.

The National Conservation District Employees Association (NCDEA) developed a guide for districts to consider when creating operational policies regarding federal shutdowns. To consult the guide and make sure your district is prepared, please visit NACD's [District Guides webpage](#) and scroll to the bottom.

SAVE THE DATE: OUR FARMS, OUR FUTURE CONFERENCE

Join our nation's leading farmers, ranchers,



Fred is a supervisor with Kent Conservation District in Delaware. Kent Conservation District presented Fred with a Lifetime Friend of NACD Membership to honor his dedication to conservation and work with the Delaware Conservation Partnership.

Do you know someone who has contributed to advancing the field of conservation? Show your appreciation with an honorary Friend of NACD membership! [Sign up online](#) or visit the Friend of NACD booth in Nashville!

Job posting: Nutrient Management Specialist

Fillmore SWCD in Preston, Minn., is seeking a Nutrient Management Specialist to work with landowners and assist with development of their nutrient and/or manure management plans. Find more information – including the job application and a complete position description – on [Fillmore SWCD's website](#). The application deadline has been extended to Friday, Feb. 16.

New online tool: Surface

researchers and educators in St. Louis on April 3-5, 2018 to explore a wide range of innovative, sustainable solutions to agriculture's most pressing dilemmas.

The [Our Farms, Our Future Conference](#) will address major food sustainability trends with presentations by a diverse group of farmers and ranchers using a wide range of systems to produce vegetables, grains, fruit, cattle, hogs, poultry and other livestock sustainably.

Hosted by the [Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education \(SARE\)](#) program and the [National Center for Appropriate Technology \(NCAT/ATTRA\)](#), the conference will feature [plenary sessions](#) and [workshops](#) for grain, livestock and specialty crop producers, as well as material relevant to researchers, educators, agency leaders and nonprofit representatives.

[Eight farm tours](#) will feature sustainable models of rural and urban agricultural production within the vibrant St. Louis food system. Register today to save your spot and receive early registration discounts. Early registration ends on Feb. 22, 2018. For more information, visit <http://ofof.sare.org>.

CONSERVATION PLANNING BOOT CAMP OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

NACD is offering an invaluable opportunity to as many as 70 conservation district and tribal district employees to expand their conservation planning and implementation knowledge and skills by participating in the NRCS Conservation Planning Boot Camp (CPBC) training in Lincoln, Neb.

Seven CPBC training sessions will be held in 2018, one each month from March – Sept. NRCS has reserved 10 seats in each session for NACD to fill with district or tribal district employees.

We have already filled the vacancies for the March session, however, space is available in all remaining sessions April – Sept., and we are currently accepting employee participation nominations. You can find details on the employee nomination process - as well

Water Toolbox

The U.S. Geological Survey and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency are hosting a webcast on Thursday, Feb. 8, from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Eastern on the new Surface Water Toolbox.

The Surface Water Toolbox is a user-friendly, downloadable tool for water managers to estimate a wide variety of streamflow statistics. [Click here](#) to download the tool. You must [register in advance](#) for the webcast.

We have a new look!



You can stay up-to-date with all things NACD, including the 2018 Annual Meeting in Nashville, by checking out all of our social media channels. #NACD #NACDinNashville2018

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Contact Us

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

[email us](#)

NACD Events Calendar

as eligibility and prerequisite requirements - on the [NACD CPBC webpage](#) or contact **NACD CPBC project lead Phylis Vandevere** at phylis-vandevere@nacdnet.org.

DID YOU KNOW?

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



The future of putting conservation on the ground promises to be a competitive business, thus putting more and more pressure on districts to deliver. With this in mind and with help from conservation partners, districts in North Carolina are exploring implementing a "training credit" model to educate and bolster credibility for district officials. [Read more in this latest installment of "Did You Know?" from the District Operations and Member Services Committee.](#)

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

- 2018 NACD Annual Meeting - January 27 - 31
- NACD Spring Fly-In - March 19 - 20
- Stewardship Week - April 29 - May 5
- NACD Summer Meeting - August 2 - 8

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**NACD Honors Conservation
Award Recipients**

Last night, during the 2018 Annual Meeting Appreciation Banquet, NACD honored award recipients for their dedication to protecting and preserving natural resources across the country.



The first award of the night was the inaugural Hugh Hammond Bennett Excellence in Conservation Award, received by **Dorn Cox** (pictured above, left, with President Brent Van Dyke) of Lee, N.H. Cox serves as a county

-->
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supervisor and vice-chair of the Strafford County Conservation District and is vice president of the New Hampshire Association of Conservation Districts.

The NACD/NRCS Olin Sims Conservation Leadership Award is presented annually to an individual, district or organization that has gone above and beyond in promoting conservation on private lands. This year's award was presented by **NRCS Acting Chief Leonard Jordan** to **Kris Swartz** of Wood SWCD.

The NACD Friend of Conservation Award recognizes an individual, business, organization or agency for outstanding contributions to conserving our nation's natural resources. **NACD Past President Gene Schmidt** presented this year's award to **Case IH** and **Patricia Lardie**.

NACD's Distinguished Service award recognizes someone who has made significant contributions to the conservation of our natural resources. This year's winner is **Ken Leiting** of the New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts (NMACD) of Rio Ranch, N.M.

The NACD President's Award was presented to **Debbie Hughes**, executive director of the New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts (NMACD).

Earlier that day, **NRCS Acting Chief Jordan** and **NACD President Brent Van Dyke** presented Monroe County SWCD in Indiana with the 2017 Earth Team Award.

For more information on NACD's annual awards, visit the NACD Awards webpage; more information on the award winners is available here.

**NACD Annual Meeting Attendees
Donate Conservation Books to
Local School**



Bronze Level





During Wednesday morning's meeting of the NACD Board of Directors, NACD and the Tennessee Association of Conservation Districts (TACD) presented representatives from Dodson Branch School in Jackson County, Tenn., with donated books for their library as part of the Pack-A-Book program. These conservation-related books will be enjoyed by the 290 Pre-K to eighth grade students of Dodson Branch for years to come. Thank you to all of our meeting attendees who brought books or provided monetary donations to help make this possible!

NACD Chooses Next President-Elect

During yesterday's meeting of the Board of Directors, NACD leadership elected **First Vice President Tim Palmer** of Truro, Iowa, as the association's next President-Elect. Prior to his term as First Vice President, Palmer served as the North Central Region Representative on NACD's Executive Board. To read more on Palmer's election, [click here](#).



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Conservation Clip List is a weekly collection of articles distributed by NACD to members and partners with the latest news in what's driving conservation. If you have a submission, please contact your NACD Communications Team

NACD Blog: Did You Know? Advocating for Conservation Before the County Board
By Jason Weinerman
01/02/2018

Did you know that Minnesota's conservation districts are using new tools to work with the public to solicit more support, including additional funding, which will allow more conservation on the ground?

ABC News: President declares disaster over deadly California wildfire
By The Associated Press
01/02/18

President Donald Trump on Tuesday declared a major disaster in California over a wildfire that destroyed more than 1,000 buildings as fierce winds whipped it through Ventura and Santa Barbara counties last month. The declaration makes federal funding available to state and local governments for recovery efforts.

nonprofit organizations for emergency work in those counties and statewide for work related to the fire.

Des Moines Register: Instead of new water quality effort, Iowa should fund existing la

By David Chivers, Carol Hunter, Lynn Hicks and Andie Dominick

01/03/18

(Opinion) Republican leaders are pushing Iowa House members to support a \$27 million conservation program that the state Senate passed last session.

High Plains/Midwest Ag Journal: Conservation needs strong support in next farm bill

By Cameron Peirce

01/01/18

(Opinion) As Congress moves forward with writing the 2018 farm bill, legislators must support conservation—especially those working lands programs like CSP and EQIP. Strong support for conservation is a win-win for both farmers and all Americans.

Star Tribune: Test our water for nitrates? Minnesota county says no thanks

By Josephine Marcotty

12/31/17

At its December meeting, the Brown County Board of Commissioners in New Ulm decided that would allow some residents to get their drinking water tested for nitrates and other contaminants by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture. The five commissioners — three of whom they were worried that the Agriculture Department would use the information to regulate fertilizer.

WBIR: Arizona's free-roaming Salt River horses get long-term protection with agreement with feds

By Jessica Boehm

12/30/17

After years of controversy and uncertainty, representatives for Arizona and the federal government have reached an agreement that will ensure the long-term protection of the free-roaming horses on the Salt River.

The St. Augustine Record: Lawmakers weigh spending on conservation projects

By Jim Saunders

12/29/17

Florida lawmakers have started moving forward with several high-priced bills that would require money that voters approved in 2014 for water and land conservation.

Daily Yonder: Subsistence farmers in Puerto Rico suffer devastating losses

By Daryll E. Ray and Harwood D. Schaffer

12/28/17

With such a large portion of Puerto Rican farmers at subsistence or near-subsistence the impact of Maria on farm households must be devastating.

NBC 5: Frisco Council Approves 'Green' Community With Grass on Roofs

By Ben Russell

01/03/18

Total Environment, a developer from India, has plans to build a community of high-end roofs covered with grass and native plants.

Lancaster Farming: Executive Order Strengthens Fight Against Invasive Pests

01/02/18

Gov. Tom Wolf of Pennsylvania signed an executive order expanding the Governor's Invasive Species Council to bring additional expertise and resources to bear in the battle against new invasive species.

Independent Record: Mountain pine beetles in decline, but Douglas-fir beetles could cause more fires

By Holly K. Michels

12/31/17

Of particular concern is the Douglas-fir beetle, which can establish itself and thrive in burned forests and build up large enough populations to take over healthier forests.

San Francisco Chronicle: Sparse Sierra snowpack has officials worried about a long, dry year

By Peter Fimrite

01/03/18

Does the state have enough stored-up water to survive a dry year? From north to south, the state's frozen-water bank averages a depth of just 3 inches, a dismal 24 percent of the average for this time of year.

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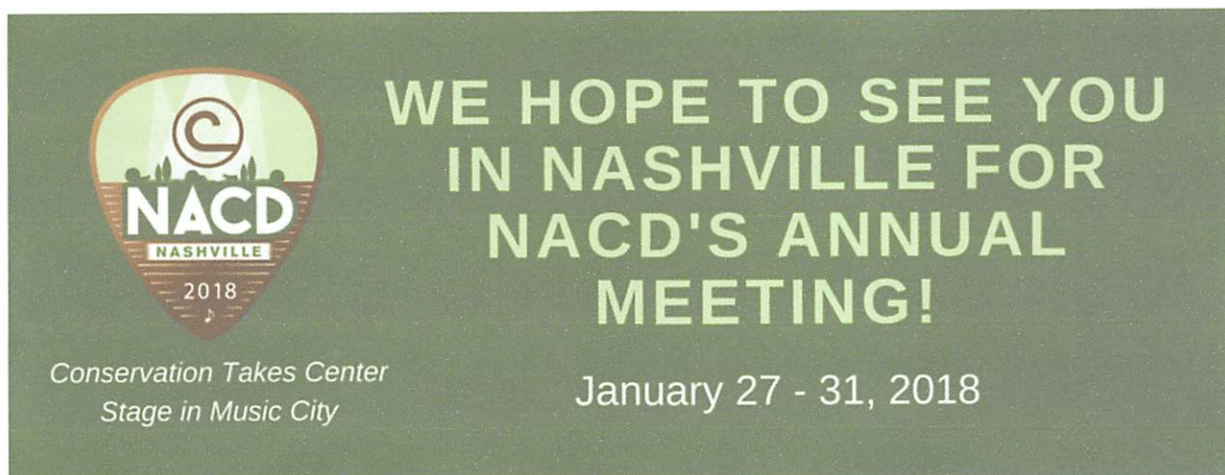
Subject **Hotel reservation deadline extended! Join us in Nashville for our 72nd Annual Meeting**

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Hotel reservation deadline extended!

With only three weeks until [NACD's 72nd Annual Meeting](#), time is running out to complete your hotel reservations!

The Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center and the Hyatt Place Nashville/Opryland still have a limited number of rooms available and have extended their hotel reservation deadlines to **next Wednesday, January 10!** Reservations are on a first come, first serve basis.

-->

Plan your stay in Music City:

After you've completed your hotel reservation, visit NACD's [Annual Meeting website](#) to review the [meeting agenda](#), learn more about our [16 breakout sessions](#) and [three conservation symposia](#), browse our [Live Auction donations](#), and more!

Thank you to our 2018 Annual Meeting sponsors:

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To reserve a room at the Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center for \$199 per night, call 1-888-777-6779 and identify yourself with the NACD room block, or [click here to complete your reservation online](#).

To reserve a room at the Hyatt Place Nashville/Opryland for \$174 per night, call 615-872-0422 ext. 3 and identify yourself as part of the G-NACD or NACD Overflow room block. You can also complete your reservation online by [clicking here](#). The Hyatt Place Nashville/Opryland will provide a complimentary shuttle to and from the Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center.

Don't forget your discounts

1. If you're a Platinum or Diamond level district, you're entitled to registration discounts and invitations to special events! [Visit our membership page](#) to review the levels.
2. Register online to save \$15 off your full registration price! **Online registration closes next Friday, January 12.**
3. First-timer scholarships are still available! Thanks to the generous support of Agri Drain, if this is your first time attending an NACD Annual Meeting, you may be eligible for a scholarship! Contact your state



Silver Level



Bronze Level



association for details; the scholarship recipient must stay at the Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center in NACD's room block to qualify. There's only one scholarship available per state/territory, so don't delay! Once your state/territory has selected their scholarship recipient in cooperation with their NACD Board Member, ask that they submit the recipient's name and email address to NACD Director of Membership [Kimberly Uldricks](#) to complete their registration.

Getting around Nashville:

Once you've arrived in Nashville, there are multiple options to get you to your hotel. The Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center offers a shuttle service to and from Nashville International Airport - you can either reserve a ticket online, or purchase one at the airport - simply look for the Gaylord Opryland Welcome Desk on the lower level of the airport between the two escalators. Tickets are \$19 one-way or \$30 round trip per person. Shuttles to the airport depart from the Cascades Shuttle Canopy and the Magnolia Canopy every 30 minutes from 5 am - 11 pm.

The Gaylord Opryland also provides shuttles to downtown Nashville every 30 minutes for \$20 round trip or \$40 for a three-day unlimited pass. There are public transportation options that will take you from the Gaylord Opryland to downtown Nashville; visit our Annual Meeting website for more details and for cost estimates of ride-sharing apps like Uber or Lyft.

Don't forget to pack a book!

NACD is partnering with Dodson Branch School in Jackson County, Tennessee, for this year's Pack-a-Book program. Dodson is home to 290 students ranging from Pre K to eighth grade. All



Questions?

Please email events@nacdnet.org or call 202-547-6223 if you need assistance.

conservation, natural resource, or environmental children's books are welcome - simply drop them off at the Stewardship and Education booth in the Conservation Expo, fill out a label with your name and conservation district, and we'll donate these titles to the students at Dodson.

Looking to lighten your load? Simply indicate on your registration form the amount you'd like to donate, and we'll take care of the rest!

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AgNet West: [USDA Investing Millions in Wildfire Mitigation and Water Quality Projects Through Joint Chiefs' Partnership](#)
01/11/18

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will invest nearly \$32 million this year to m

The Seattle Times: Oregon wildfire costs up to \$454 million in 2017

By Zach Urness

01/10/18

The cost of fighting wildfires in Oregon skyrocketed to \$454 million in 2017, the most spent on wildfire fighting in the state's history, with more than 665,000 acres burned statewide.

Drovers: Grazing Gold: A Win-Win

By John Maday

01/08/18

Across the Corn Belt, crop-residue grazing has become increasingly popular as a low-input beef production by converting a low-value byproduct—crop residue—into high-value product.

The Washington Post: Extreme hurricanes and wildfires made 2017 the most costly U.S. disaster year on record

By Chris Mooney and Brady Dennis

01/08/18

Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria combined with devastating Western wildfires and other disasters caused \$306 billion in total damage in 2017, with 16 events that caused more than \$1 billion in damage.

Reuters: Exclusive: Trump's EPA aims to replace Obama-era climate, water regulations in 2018

By Reuters Staff

01/09/18

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will replace Obama-era carbon and clean water rules that also includes fighting lead contamination in public drinking water.

Upper Michigan Source: DNR awards nearly \$2.8M in Land and Water Conservation Fund grants

By WLUC

01/11/18

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources announced that 19 community and state parks, trails and sports facilities across the state will receive funding from the DNR in their efforts to provide broader access to quality public outdoor recreation opportunities for residents and visitors.

KTIC: Healthy fields and farm economies act to strengthen federal conservation programs

By Reana Kovalcik

01/10/18

The Healthy Fields and Farm Economies Act, a bipartisan bill introduced on Wednesday in the House by Representatives John F. Duncan and Amodeo DiGirolamo, aims to strengthen federal conservation programs by authorizing and providing funding for the measurement, evaluation and improvement of federal conservation programs.

Capitol Weekly: Amid rains and mudslides, drought concern remains

By Jessica Hice

01/11/18

Despite the fierce rains and deadly mudslides that have struck California, water officials are concerned about the possibility of a repeat of the 1992-1993 drought.

WIRED: How a mudslide becomes a deadly tsunami of rocks and sludge

By Adam Roers

01/11/18

The mudslides earlier this week that killed 17 people—eight more remain missing—came as a terrifying surprise in the early morning fires, based on computer models using data from previous flows.

Fox News: Animal rights group presses Army on wild horse roundups

By Janet McConnaughey

01/10/18

Animal rights advocates want a federal court to make an Army base in western Louisiana

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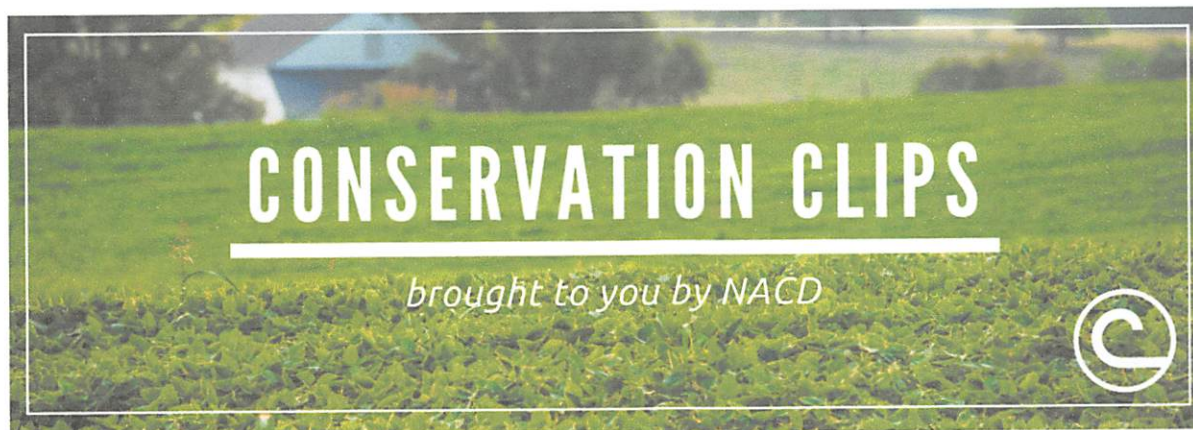
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WTOP: [What the 2018 farm bill means for urban, suburban and rural America](#)

By The Associated Press

01/16/18

(Opinion) Unfortunately, most people are unaware of the farm bill's importance because they think it impacts only farmers. Over the next few months, debate and discussion about the farm bill will grow, and hopefully will lead to broader understanding of the bill's importance.

KMA Land: [Northey entitled to Senate vote](#)

By Anna Hastert

01/13/18

It's been seventy-five days since Texas Senator Ted Cruz placed a hold on an Iowan's USDA Under Secretary nomination.

USDA: [Sustaining the Forests of the Mississippi Headwaters](#)

By Zoe Hoyle

01/12/18

The USDA Forest Service partnered with Camp Ripley, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources,

Minnesota Forest Resources Council, Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources, Forest Service Northeastern Area, several county soil and water districts, and The Nature Conservancy to develop solutions that would work for all landowners. As a result, the landscape is now part of the Sentinel Landscapes Partnership, dedicated to promoting natural resource sustainability in areas surrounding military installations.

News-Sentinel: [New state program will help northeast Indiana landowners restore grasslands, which will aid songbirds, gamebirds and pollinator insects](#)

By Kevin Kilbane

01/12/18

A new program could help landowners replant some of Indiana's rapidly disappearing grasslands, providing important habitat for songbirds, gamebirds and pollinator insects such as honeybees and butterflies.

AgWeb: [Disaster Bill Could Make Passing the Farm Bill "Easier"](#)

By Anna-Lisa Laca

01/11/18

Round one of the farm bill battles could be settled as soon as this month if the Senate agrees on a fix for cotton and dairy in the \$81 billion disaster aid bill already passed by the House. Not only would a cotton and dairy plan settle one of the most contentious negotiations of a new farm bill, it would also increase the baseline funding available for the new five-year bill.

Maui Now: [Hawai'i to Receive \\$770K for Watershed Protection](#)

01/12/18

The State of Hawai'i will receive \$770,000 from the US Department of Agriculture to protect and improve Hawai'i's watersheds.

U.S. News and World Report: [Minnesota Native American Tribe Seeks Farm Bill Funding](#)

By The Associated Press

01/13/18

More than 30 tribes across the country have formed the Native Farm Bill Coalition. The farm bill could help tribes strengthen their agriculture economy by funding projects that add value to livestock or crops produced by Indian farmers and ranchers.

Spectrum News: [Conservationists use urban beekeeping to tackle diminishing population](#)

By Elaina O'Connell

01/16/18

"Bee Our Future" is an urban beekeeping program that aims to bring awareness to the conservation of bees. The program places beehives on commercial rooftops. Interested businesses pay a fee, and they do the rest.

Morning Ag Clips: [Assistance available to improve water quality](#)

01/17/18

The U.S. Department of Agriculture recently announced funding for the National Water Quality Initiative to help farmers in select watersheds improve water quality through conservation measures on their agricultural

operations. The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service is investing more than \$30 million this year in 201 high-priority watersheds across the country.

Des Moines Register: [No more livestock confinements until Iowa water improves, group says](#)

By Donnelle Eller

01/16/18

Iowa lawmakers should halt construction on animal confinements until Iowa's water quality is significantly improved, a coalition of about two dozen state, local and national groups said Tuesday.

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Guided snowshoe hike provides educational opportunity

The Benzie Conservation District is organizing a snowshoe hike through the woods to help educate local residents about forest management and wildlife habitat.

-->
Forestry Briefs

Maine - District partners with Maine Forest Service to promote forest stewardship



The Knox-Lincoln Soil and Water Conservation District and Maine Forest Service are co-sponsoring a series of tours designed to showcase woodland stewardship and conservation by private landowners. The tours are open to landowners, loggers, foresters and others



CHAMPION OF THE MONTH

Operating a fourth-generation family farm, Adrien Lavoie grows “a little of everything,” which includes a variety of fruits, vegetables, sweet corn and pumpkins. His farm incorporates many proven soil health practices on his land such as crop rotation, multi-species cover crops, zone tillage and no-till.



This past year, however, as part of the New Hampshire Cover Crops Team, Adrien has taken part in a multimedia campaign called “We’ve Got It Covered,” specifically promoting cover crops. This team is a partnership of farmers, USDA NRCS, the New Hampshire Association of Conservation Districts and the University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension which utilized field signs, blogs and social media to recognize the farmers using cover crops and encourage others to try as well.

To read more about Adrien Lavoie and his experience with cover crops, be sure to visit [his Soil Health Champion profile](#) at the NACD website. You can also visit the [Lavoies Farm website](#) and follow the operation on Facebook at Lavoies Farm. To learn more about NH’s Soil Health Team efforts, visit www.nhacd.net/soil-health-.html.

If you or someone you know is interested in soil

complete yours by February 5 to be counted. This year you can [complete your responses online!](#)

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](#).

- 2018 NACD Annual Meeting - January 27 - 31
- NACD Spring Fly-In - March 19 - 20
- Stewardship Week - April 29 - May 5
- NACD Summer Meeting - August 2 - 8

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.

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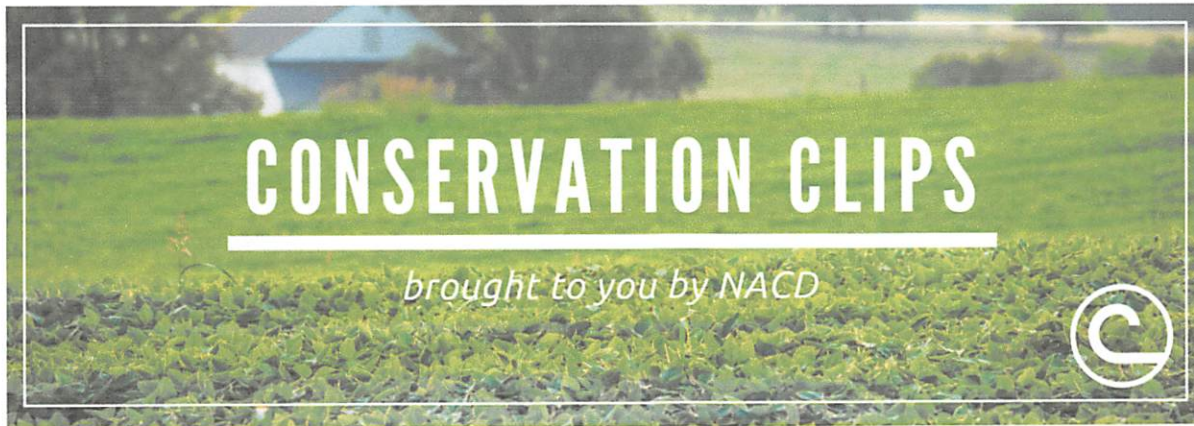
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NACD Blog: Did You Know? Soil and Water Conservation Commission Implements Pilot Program to Train Supervisors

By Bryan Evans
01/23/18

In 2016, North Carolina passed state legislation that requires soil and water conservation supervisors to obtain six hours of continuing education hours annually, referred to as Supervisor Training Credits (STCs).

Agri-Pulse: SCOTUS decision on WOTUS delivers uncertainty

By Steve Davies
01/22/18

Current and future court challenges to the “waters of the U.S.” rule must be heard in federal district courts, not circuit courts of appeals, the Supreme Court said Monday in a unanimous decision that ultimately could lead to lawsuits filed all over the country.

Des Moines Register: After years-long debate, water quality legislation is

headed to the governor

By Brianne Pfannenstiel

01/23/18

A bill committing \$282 million to water quality initiatives will head to the governor's desk, the culmination of a debate that spanned three legislative sessions and two governors.

DTN/The Progressive Farmer: USDA's Farm Bill Principles

By Chris Clayton

01/24/18

Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue laid out a four-page set of principles for the farm bill Wednesday during a trip to Pennsylvania. The summary of principles are largely broad in scope and would leave much of the nuts and bolts of a farm bill up to Congress.

MSU Today: \$2.5M grant to help improve agricultural consumption of water, energy

By Layne Cameron, David Hyndman, Bruno Basso

01/18/18

Around the world, irrigated agriculture is the largest consumer of water and one of the largest users of energy. Michigan State University scientists are leading a \$2.5 million USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture grant to better manage these resources and define more sustainable ways for irrigated agriculture to meet current and future demand for food.

Chicago Sun-Times: Tracking path of the 2018 Farm Bill: Chances and meanings in this political year

By Dale Bowman

01/21/18

"The House will move on something in the next eight weeks, by the middle of March," said Steve Kline, director of government relations for TRCP.

"There is a commitment from [Speaker Paul] Ryan to move the bill when it comes out of the committee." The Senate will take longer on the Farm Bill. Kline suspects it will be sometime in May.

KUAR: A Look Ahead to the 2018 Farm Bill: Food, Farms and Forests

By Ann Kenda

01/22/18

Arkansas's forestry leaders are also looking to this year's Farm Bill for financial and technical assistance for forests, the vast majority of which are privately owned and operated in Arkansas.

The Sacramento Bee: This amphibian – loved for its legs – threatens its

California cousins

By Jane Braxton Little

01/20/18

The problem is not just non-native bullfrogs eating Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frogs, a federal endangered species, and foothill yellow-legged frogs, under review for listing by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. They are also consuming the tadpoles that dragonflies feed on and negatively affecting a wide range of species.

Lancaster Farming: Three Key Factors Could Influence Adoption of Cover Crops in 2018

By Steve Groff

01/20/18

(Opinion) I'm sure we've all heard various prognosticators' expectations for the new year, but did you hear anyone predict the influences that may affect the growing cover crop movement in the year ahead? As I thought about this, I identified three key factors that will undoubtedly influence cover crops in the year ahead.

Ionia Sentinel-Standard: State awards \$3.6M in grants to fight invasive species

01/21/18

The Michigan departments of Environmental Quality, Natural Resources, and Agriculture and Rural Development announced Thursday 23 projects will share \$3.6 million in state grants through the Michigan Invasive Species Grant Program. The program, launched in 2014, is an initiative to help prevent and control invasive species within the state.

Phys.Org: Study may improve strategies for reducing nutrient runoff into Mississippi River

01/22/18

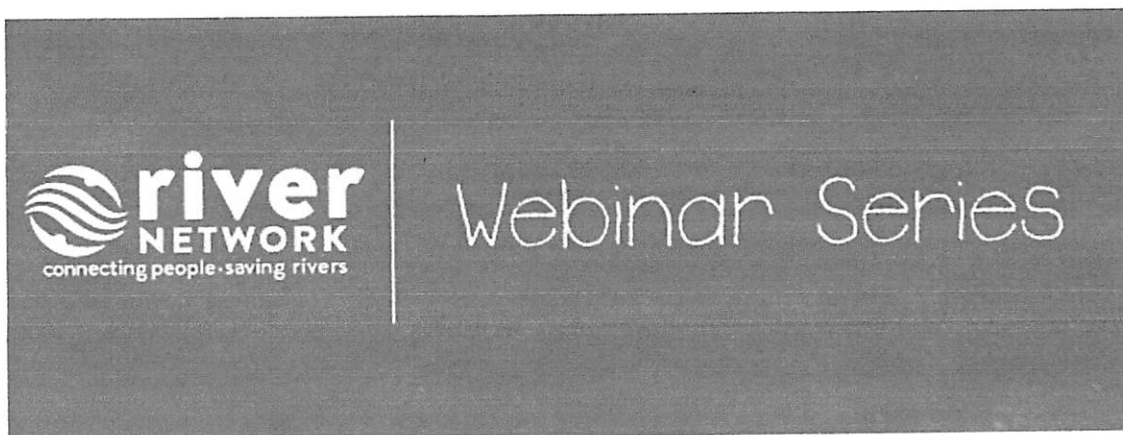
The three state strategies analyzed in the study, Illinois, Iowa, and Minnesota, included science-based assessments of various conservation practices: things like cover crops, conservation tillage, bioreactors, modifications to nitrogen application rate, and more.

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Subject **Fundraising Essentials: Fundraising as a Team**
From Caroline Bott, River Network <info@rivernetwork.org>
To <rose.corona@teamrcd.org>
Date 2018-01-02 05:03



Join us for our next webinar

Fundraising Essentials: All In! Fundraising as a Team

Fundraising is a team effort. There are separate and distinct roles for each member of the team, which can be blurred, depending on the organization. This session explores board and staff fundraising responsibilities; the role of the development committee; the time and energy involved in each step of the fundraising cycle; and common fundraising mistakes.

Fundraising Essentials for Success, a series developed by River Network's Leadership Development Institute, covers best practices and strategies for focused, effective fundraising. Participants also receive resources including templates, worksheets, and customizable materials to build their fundraising programs.

Registration closes January 9th at 1:00 PM. Reserve your spot today!