

Interesting Facts & Anecdotes

from your District Operations and Member Services Committee

April 2013

Did you know?

1. You should always participate in voting whenever possible. Refrain from using these "not's" as excuses to abstain from voting: not being informed, not coming to meetings prepared, not doing one's homework, or not asking relevant questions during discussions leading to votes.
2. Soil and Water Conservation Districts cannot use "secret ballots". All decisions must be public.
3. A good SWCD meeting agenda will state:
 - The sequence of items to be covered
 - The time allotted for each item
 - Major headings with topics, subjects, etc.
 - Responsible person identified
 - Action level requested: decision, discussion, assignments, FYI.
4. Executive Sessions cannot be used to avoid public involvement, to resolve internal controversies, or when directors are uncomfortable dealing with the issues publicly.
5. Conservation plans written by districts that use state or local funds are not protected by public records laws. They would be open records whose handlings are governed by public record law. They are not "confidential records" with the same protections as NRCS conservation contracts.
6. Hugh Hammond Bennett's "watershed approach" included:
 - Soil health
 - Water quality
 - Wildlife habitat
 - Forestation and reforestation
 - Contouring
 - Crop rotation
 - Pasture management
 - Strip cropping
 - Irrigation
 - Using land according to its potential
7. District officials may not ask for or accept anything worth \$50 or more from anyone with whom they have official dealings.
8. Susan Schultz, NACD Education and Stewardship Specialist, attended the 1985 NACD Convention when the conservation district she worked for - Hancock County SWCD in Indiana - received the national conservation teacher of the year award.

Go to <http://www.nacdnet.org/membership/friendsofnacd> and learn how to become a Friend of NACD.