

Interesting Facts & Anecdotes

from your District Operations and Member Services Committee

August, 2013

Did you know?....

1. The purpose of a soil and water conservation district is to carry out preventive and control measures for better use of natural resources, particularly soil and water.
2. A soil and water conservation district mission statement defines the ends and outcomes that drive all district decisions. It helps the district maintain its focus. It provides a clear indication of who we are, whom we serve, and how we serve them. It should be concise, powerful, and eye-catching.
3. The chair of a soil and water conservation district usually has inherent, often legally-defined authority during district meetings to:
 - Keep order
 - Impose reasonable restrictions on debate and participation and set time limits
 - Regulate or disallow public input
 - Remove disruptive persons, including district officials
 - Enforce "ground rules" or Robert's Rules of Order, when necessary
 - Enforce district meeting policies
4. All expenditures of a soil and water conservation district must be legal and correct. District funds and accounts must be audited each year.
5. Soil and water conservation districts are subject to the provisions of the state's public meetings and records laws.
6. No surprise here. The biggest complaint about district meetings is their length. Some measures to minimize meeting length include:
 - Well-planned agenda
 - Chair staying on schedule
 - Committee work in advance
 - Advance study, information gathering
 - Committee, officer, and staff reports and agenda sent in advance
7. Soil and water conservation district checks should require two signatures.
8. Brown Creek Soil and Water Conservation District in North Carolina signed the first memorandum of agreement with USDA on August 3, 1937.