



# **National Association of Conservation Districts**

## **Tuesday Recap: NACD 2017 Annual Meeting**

Denver Colorado | January 31, 2017

The final two days of NACD's 71<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting featured keynotes and a panel discussion centered on conservation advocacy and civic engagement, as well as an awards banquet.

The first speaker in Tuesday's general session was American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall. Mr. Duvall spoke on the importance of building coalitions and staying engaged politically at the local, state, and national levels.

Following Mr. Duvall's address was a panel on water conservation. Moderator Tracee Bentley, executive director of the Colorado Petroleum Council, started the discussion with an overview of how the East and West's water law differs. The subsequent discussion examined junior vs. senior water rights and other challenges associated with the management of water in the West.

Ms. Bentley was accompanied on stage by the following distinguished panelists: Colorado State Senator Jerry Sonnenberg; Chris Treese, the manager of external affairs for the Colorado River Water Conservation District; Jim Ogsbury, the executive director of the Western Governors' Association; and Sam Walker, the global chief legal and corporate affairs officer for Molson Coors.

Finishing out the morning program was Leonard Jordan, the acting chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). In his address, Acting Chief Jordan reminded attendees of the long-standing partnership NRCS and NACD have and provided examples – such as NACD's Urban Agriculture Conservation Grant Initiative – where the partners have helped to grow the voluntary conservation community.

Tuesday evening, NACD held an awards and appreciation banquet. For video coverage of that event, [click here](#). You can also read NACD's press releases [announcing the members of the 2017 officer team and executive board](#) and this year's [conservation award recipients](#).

For updates throughout the meeting, follow NACD on [Facebook](#).

The 2017 NACD Annual Meeting is sponsored at the premier level by Case IH, John Deere, The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation, and The BARN; at the title level by Warner Ranch, NRCS, BoarBuster, Prince George's Soil Conservation District, Agri Drain, U.S Forest Service, U.S. Sugar, and Envirocert; and at the host level by Agrium, Syngenta, Datu Research, Colorado Association of Conservation Districts Employees Association, and Rice Agrimarketing.