Northern Plains Region Board Meeting
Sunday, February 3, 2019, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM CST
San Antonio, Texas: Marriott Rivercenter, Conference Room 3/4

Agenda

Roll Call .............................................................................................................. Orval Gigstad
Region Chair

States present: Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas

Introductions of all other attendees were made.

Approval of Minutes ....................................................................................... Board Members

Moved by North Dakota, Second by Kansas

Missouri River Team Update ........................................................................... Orval Gigstad

The report previously provided by Jack Majeres was discussed. Jack will continue to serve as
representative for the next year, and a new representative will be needed. The importance of
the position was discussed, and attendees were encouraged to consider who will take on the
role. The contributions by the states was discussed for the upcoming year. Orval Gigstad will
check with Missouri about their contribution. A motion was made by Kansas and seconded by
North Dakota that the states contribute to the account for 2019.

Open Discussion

Orval discussed an article by the National Academy of Science emphasizing the importance of
conservation efforts for soils, coastal habitats, and forests to address climate change. Since
these are the realms of work done by Districts, the message of district work is important to
communicate. The region would like Coleman to communicate to the National Academy of
Sciences with this message.

Region Leaders Meeting ................................................................................. Jeanne Dryburgh/Orval Gigstad

The draft agenda was presented for review, and comments on the proposed content were
requested via email to Sunni. More information will be distributed with details pertaining to
transportation and lodging. Attendees were asked to confirm their plan to attend, with 13
people indicating they intend to go.

Legislative Update ............................................................................................. Coleman Garrison

Coleman provided an update on the Farm Bill as well as discussions on the topic taking place
at the annual meeting. The partial government shutdown slowed some things down, but
additional announcements should be expected in the next couple weeks. A reminder was made
to the group about the Spring Fly In in March, encouraging all to attend for the value that of
the voices provided from the local level. If people can’t attend, call Coleman so he can help
communicate with the officials. An update was given on congress activity and the 2019
government affairs priorities of NACD People were reminded that the priorities are not an
exclusive list, if additional topics are needed speak up.
Discussion took place on regulatory reform and the forthcoming public comments period.
NACD will be submitting public comment on WOTUS. Attendees were reminded that if they
submit comment, to contact Adam so your thoughts can be incorporated in the message.
Discussion on the watershed program and ESA took place.

Executive Board Report ................................................................. Bevin Law
Bevin updated the group on the activity of the Executive Board at the annual meeting,
including resolutions. The Board also discussed summer meeting in Santa Fe Aug 2-8. Other
meetings discussed were next years annual meeting in Las Vegas, Bismarck in 2020, and
potentials for 2021 are being discussed and are open to suggestions. Roger Christenson would
like to meet with someone from NACD regarding North Dakota’s hosting of the 2020 meeting.
Discussions took place on the resolutions coming up, attendees were reminded that if they
have interest or concerns about what is proposed, get it to someone today or tomorrow.
The sunset policy was discussed, and the purpose of the exercise to remove language and
policy that was no longer applicable.
Bevin is up for reelection and he would like to continue in the position.

NACD Updates ................................................................. Sunni Heikes-Knapton
Sunni introduced herself as the new Northern Plains Region representative, having started in
November 2018. She presented on several NACD programs and activities, and encouraged
states to inquire with questions about these opportunities.

Jeremy Peters, NACD CEO:
Jeremy reminded the group on NACD programs and conveyed that he is available to the
region to answer questions. He provided additional information about the approach being
taken on the resolutions and the sunset policy. The approach is to review policies after they
have been in place for 5 years to evaluate their applicability and create a more efficient
approach overall by using the committees. The current policies were reviewed completely, and
any policy that was determined to be applicable are included in the consent calendar. Those
that need updating will be handled in the resolution process. The states were previously
requested to provide feedback on this process.

Officer Candidate Presentations
Both Kim LaFleur and Michael Crowder addressed the region and conveyed their excitement
for continuing with their leadership.
Resolutions Update (Committee Members)
There was a discussion on the Kansas resolution to extend CRP contracts.

RPG Updates
Forestry ................................................................. Steve Hedstrom
Steve provided an update on the activities of the Forestry RPG and their upcoming planned trio to Puerto Rico in June. He also discussed updates to the state forest action plans, and the regular communications being delivered in the newsletter and emails; especially success stories, farm bill updates, and good neighbor authority.

Invasive species ............................................................. Bill Simshauser
Bill presented on the creation and intent of the definition and list of species for adoption as a resolution. He discussed the potential for this to be used as content on the planned NACD education hub.

Public Lands ............................................................... Roger Christenson
Roger conveyed they would like to expand the group, and they are working with new staff. He indicated that they are looking forward to future activities and encouraged involvement by those interested.

State and Partner Updates
Kevin Wickey (Central Region Conservationist NRCS): Kevin apologized for missing the Northern Plains annual meeting in Montana. The farm bill was discussed at length, and the authority for implementation now that it is signed, and the dedication of the funds. He talked about Title 2 and the desire of congress for CSP to be more evenly distributed, so there are some changes here.
NRCS staffing was discussed, and the upcoming release of hiring certificates. The pathways announcement will be coming out in the next 30 days. The partial government shutdown has slowed some staffing processes due to the closure of the business office.
Additional staffing concepts were discussed, including the success and structure of TA Grant funded positions. There was discussion on the potential for Districts to be able to develop some funding mechanisms through other partnerships and their hiring approach.

Barbara Perlman-Whyman, Presidents Associations: Barbara reminded the group that all former presidents are permanent members. Member experience is greatly valuable and is an asset to your area because of your knowledge and experience. She conveyed that “Leadership doesn’t term out”. There is a need to use this asset to improve relationships with membership and affiliates. A brochure with information is available.

Meeting Adjournment ........................................................................... Orval Gigstad
3:00 PM: Moved by North Dakota, Seconded by Montana