Called to order at 11:02

Agenda

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

States Present: Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota, Montana
States Absent: North Dakota

Approval of Minutes ................................................................................................................. Board Members
Action required
No objections.

Executive Board Report............................................................................................................. Bevin Law
During the summer meeting in New Mexico, they discussed listening sessions, budget, and the strategic plan. Dues remain a vital part of the overall budget as it is important for the financial stability that grant support doesn’t always provide. Peter Green, who is the event planning contractor, discussed logistics of future annual meetings. Board had additional discussion on locations and logistics of future meetings and considerations that encourage attendance. The facilities in many locations work well for what we need for our event.

Stewardship and Education: Youth in Education continues to be a topic of discussion. Wisconsin presented on their proposal for youth education, grants would need to be pursued to support the proposed work. Their preferred participants are High School age but the committee believes college aged is a good fit and it reduces issues with chaperone needs. Conservation Education hub is coming along- the contractor is doing well. Stewardship week themes for the 5 year period may be updated or rebuilt- to be decided.

Missouri River Team Update..................................................................................................... Jack Majeres
Making progress in getting plans to address endangered species on Missouri River. Dick Iverson from MT said he wants to join MRRIC. His name is currently in for consideration for the second CD seat. Jack’s term is up in June of 2020. Dick might be able to step in, and there will be a need for an alternate at that time. Niobrara did have significant flooding impacts. The work that needs to be done could be supported by the TA Grant that the lower Niobrara NRD got.
Resource Policy Groups:
- Lyle Stewart from SD is joining the Coastal RPG. Thanks Lyle!
- Tribal RPG: Discussion lead by Michael Crowder, NACD First Vice President.

Michael was the founding chair of the Tribal RPG and continues to be involved. The RPG has a goal to improve work with tribal producers on conservation projects. The current Northern Plains representative position needs to be filled: Ideally a district supervisor with tribal membership (but not required). The previous individual will be serving as an advisor to the RPG. The call participants were asked to consider who might be a good person to serve on the RPG for the Northern Plains.

The RPG has been very active and they are currently working on a grant that might expand the work of the RPG. Michael described learning a great deal from his experiences and that the knowledge he has gained has helped him with some tribal situations on his own property. The RPG wants to work with those who are interested in being engaged. The New Mexico meeting and previous meetings have been very successful.

They RPG is trying to get the tribal CDs to work with the state associations to increase engagement. The goal is to cooperate where opportunities exist with partners who want to work together. They have made great strides in 2.5 years and are gaining understanding on the issues. Northern plains is a very important area for tribal work so this representative seat is significant.

People who are interested in serving with the RPG can contact Michael or Larry Davis (current chair). They are looking for the right person who is willing to participate. The current members have a great deal of respect for the work of the group. They vote by consensus by finding out what works and apply that approach in other areas. (Question on grant funds) NAAF has $465 mil to award as grants. NACD has worked on a grant application to strengthen the role and expand the work of the tribal RPG.

Additional update: Michael also serves as Chair of legislative committee: The most recent Farm bill is finished, so the rules get published within the next month. People will hear more on that once that publication happens. They are working on making sure appropriations are fulfilled. The Northern Plains region wants to get additional updates on the work of the committee and topics like WOTUS.

By Laws Committee update ........................................................................................................Fran Fritz
Fran described the communication as circulated on pages 2-3 of the updated agenda and described the 4 possible options that the committee is considering. The committee will make a recommendation, but the final vote will be before the whole board. There is some uncertainty about what the final bylaw request could be. Fran requests feedback from the state representatives on their opinion on the topic. She herself has a lot of questions.
People can contact her directly at mobile: 605-354-2895 or landline: (605) 599-2355 Fran asks that people call her with their input.

Michael Crowder (some comments on the bylaw topic): Wisconsin has adjusted their district structure- positions now rotate between employees and volunteers, which is different than any other state. There is a feeling that NACD should be lead by supervisors not employees. Although Wisconsin has proven themselves to be very engaged; with considerable involvement in RPGs and committees. NACD should consider the long term integrity. Questions were posed about local voting authority and alternate positions. It was suggested that a narrative from Wisconsin describing their situation might be helpful- perhaps after November 1st. There was concern about the precedence of NACD changing their by laws for unique situations.

NACD Report ............................................................................................................................................Sunni Heikes-Knapton

**Next Generation Leadership Institute:** Deadline for submission of applications is Friday, September 20th. Please encourage good candidates to consider applying!

**TA and Urban Grants:** No firm updates yet. We are waiting to hear about next year’s support for both TA Grants and the Urban Grant program. NACD will communicate any updates as they become available.

**Special deal on embroidered apparel:** Hat promotion has been extended until October 6. $84 for a dozen embroidered hats. These are great to have for annual conventions and fall and winter meetings. See the website for more info.

**2020 Annual meeting in Las Vegas:** Agenda and registration is on the website. Early bird registration ends December 14, regular registrations are taken until January 17. The First timers scholarship (full meeting registration and a ticket to the appreciation banquet) is also now open with a limited number available (1 per state, on a first come first serve basis). Interested applicants should contact their state or territory association for consideration. Once the association selects a scholarship recipient in cooperation with their NACD board member, they will fill out this online form no later than Friday, December 13, 2019. New this year is the Conservation Innovation Fair, which gives exhibitors a chance to showcase innovative products or services in an exclusive format with special marketing and VIP access.

**Annual Meeting Auction items:** Proceeds from this year’s auction will go to the National Conservation Foundation to support programs like Envirothon and Next Generation Leadership Institute. Deadline for auction items submission (or commitment) is December 20th. Please be thinking about possible auction items for this fundraiser- regional experiences are always popular.
Hugh Hammond Bennett Awards: Now accepting nominations in two categories: Producer award and Conservation Planner award. Nomination package is online and the deadline is October 1st. Awardees will be honored at the Annual Meeting appreciation banquet.

Department of Interior speaker offer: The DOI can be available to address your state association or other meeting. Topics might include public land management, water resources, tribal activities, gateway communities, etc. Contact Adam Pugh (adam-pugh@nacdnet.org) or Tim Williams (timothy_williams@ios.doi.gov) with requests.

Speaker Request Form: If you would like a NACD staff or officer to speak at your event, you can complete an online form with the request. Information needed includes person requested, event location/date, support provided, and preferred topics.

Partner Updates (NRCS, NCDEA, NASCA)

Craig Derickson (NRCS State Conservationist Nebraska): They are in the last 2 weeks in fiscal year. There is lots of work being done in field offices, including lots of disaster work in the state.

Sarah Tunge (NCDEA): They hosted a successful leadership conference in Sioux Falls, SD in August with 70 participants from 7 different states. They would like to do it again next year. The NCDEA organization has been working on helping with the development of NCPP website, also working on planning events at annual meeting.

Kent Zimmerman (NASCA): They are getting ready for the NASCA Annual meeting Sept 30-Oct 2 in Lexington KY, which is being co-hosted by the National Watershed Coalition. There are lots of good speakers and good tours planned.

State Updates and Upcoming Calendar Items

Kansas: Board members attended Santa Fe meeting in August. The Kansas dept of Ag did ag summit dealing with all aspects of ag in August. All the KACD board attended. Lots of good interactions at the meeting. Senator Moran participated in a conservation tour that looked at flooding conditions and NRCS programs that were used in the area. They visited Indian reservation and learned about NRCS work done there. The Kansas Bottom Line conference was completed. Annual convention is coming up in November. Senator Moran and Chief Lohr will both be attending; it will be a 75th year celebration.

South Dakota: The current board is all gathered today in Pierre and on the call. They have been working on their agreements with NRCS and the CCG. They have been looking into the
recovering Americas wildlife act: States should be informed about this as it is a potential partnership program.

**Montana:** Officers and executive team are doing area meetings in the state this week and next. They’ll be visiting with supervisors throughout the state. They haven’t hired a new ED yet- they did hire program manager with the sister organization, Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Montana. The plan is to get through area meetings. They are also making plans for Annual meeting in November.

**Nebraska:** They are getting ready for their Annual meeting September 22-24\(^{th}\). They have 350 people registered with a full agenda. Governor is planning to join. They are also working with the governor’s office and the department of natural resource to discuss flood impacts and to do long term planning for flood control. It’s a multi-state initiative which will also include Iowa and Missouri. All three states will be looking at their watersheds that lead to the Missouri. The weather challenges continue; between Valentine and Ainsorth they received 11 inches of rain very recently so the flooding continues. Bridge damage and super saturated groundwater conditions continue to be an issue for transportation infrastructure. Concerns now about what the conditions will be when winter arrives and areas freeze. Road closures are expected.

A last reminder to contact Sunni with any questions or updates. Remember NACD does have the job board and any events can be considered for features in the eResource.

Adjourned at 11:57 PM

Next call date: Proposed for 12 pm Central on October 15, 2019. A reminder will be sent out.
Communications regarding Bylaws Committee:

On the question regarding if we had any concern as to legal interpretation and any restriction on the NACD non-profit status as we are incorporated under Wisconsin law. In checking with Jeremy we do not think there is a concern however when the annual renewal is due, which is the end of this year, he will assure via legal review that we have no issues.

Hearing the concerns after our discussion it is clear the Wisconsin amendment intent is to assure that their selected board member has a vote at the Board Meeting and associated committee work. They understand they are always welcome but in some cases the member they select is prevented from voting due to the restriction in Article 6.10.

Presently we have 3 options to address it

Leave it as it is and the restriction continues.
Adopt a change as suggest in the resolution presented by Wisconsin
Adopt a waiver which is voted by the board for the term of the representative from Wisconsin

I would like to offer there is a fourth to consider.

Larry Davis clearly put forth in his write up the items which I feel reflect the situation as it refers to whether NACD desire control the state’s to governance model. The answer is NACD does not desire to do that and should not do that as this is controlled by state governance laws. If that is the case we want each state to participate. We are truly an organization established with state control, not individual districts control therefore the state association is the responsible party representing there districts.

With a in depth review it is clear in Article 5 (5.10) that the state is to determine their representative.

The Bylaws then goes to restrict that membership in Article 6.10 for Association Directors, Executive Board Members and Officers.

I believe a simple way to clarify this is to Amend Article 6 to apply to only Executive Board and Officers. This would only delete the word Director in the title and in 6.10 you would delete the word director in the first line.

The results of this change would provide that the state representative could vote and be fully accounted for in all activities of the Board and any committee’s but that representative could not serve on the Executive Board or be an Officer of the Association if the person is a paid
District Official. This would maintain the control of the Association to be unpaid elected officials of a local Conservation Districts but would assure each state has a representative vote and representation on the Policy and Board of Directors on deciding what is best for the Association. The Board is like Congress and the Executive Board and the Officers is like the administration.

This is something we should discuss.

To address what our recommendation will be we need to have a decision by the 1st week of November so that our suggested changes can be out to all directors 60 days prior to the Annual Meeting.

We will plan on a conference call in October to discuss our options and hopefully reach a consensus.