

2019 Annual Meeting Northeast Region Notes

Sunday, February 3, 2019

Board Members in Attendance: Edwin Alexander (DE), Linda Brownson (Incoming Executive Board), Sam Casella (NY), Linda Corse (VT), Dorn Cox (NH), Joe Gumm (WV), Cliff Lane (PA), Joe Lomax (NJ), Frank Richardson (MD), Denise Savageau (CT), Cal Steuart (Outgoing Executive Board), Dick Went (RI), Carol Weymouth (ME)

Agenda:

- Welcome and Call to Order
- NACD Northeast Executive Board Update – Cal Steuart
- Partner Reports – NRCS, NECDEA, NASCA, NARC&DC
- Resolutions Pad and Bylaw Amendment Discussion
- Committee Reports
 - Communications Committee – NY, RI, WV
 - District Operations and Member Services – DE, ME
 - Legislative Committee – CT, PA
 - Natural Resources Policy Committee (including any RPG news to note) – NH, NJ
 - Stewardship and Education – MD, MA, VT
- NACD Program/Grants Update
- Northeast Region Vice-Chair Election
- State Updates
 - Please provide a written report
- Upcoming Meetings
 - Spring Fly-In - March 13, Washington, DC
 - 2019 Region Meeting - TBD, Connecticut
 - 2019 Summer Meeting - Aug 3-7, Santa Fe, NM
- Adjourn

- Rolling Agenda Item: NACD Officer Introductions and Updates

Notes:

NACD Executive Board Update - Linda Brownson and Cal Steuart:

- Kim LaFleur gave the full Board a financial report and the full financials are available on the members only website. The FY18 audit was very complementary.
- Attendees from NACD's Conservation Careers Workshop are at the Annual Meeting.
- The Executive Board is looking into future programs for districts, such as employee benefits offered across the country.

Partner Reports:

- NRCS - Terrell Erickson
 - Hiring has continued at NRCS and 90% of the hires have been in the field.

- There are two major workload studies going on right now: The Optimally Productive Office and a time cycle study. These are helping NRCS collect better data on staffing needs and adjust the agency employment cap.
- There are new guidelines and a framework for consistent agreements between NRCS and districts that will be rolling out nationwide.
- NRCS has a new Deputy Chief for Management and Strategy, which was created to work with the FPAC Business Center.
- NCDEA - Jeff Parker
 - Nationally, they have a new strategic plan and a brand new website (ncdea.us)
 - The website includes an interactive portal to submit ideas, programs, information, etc.
 - NCDEA's Board is now fully populated with representatives from each region.
 - NCDEA has been actively participating in all the action and leadership teams for the National Conservation Planning Partnership (NCP). They have also been promoting Conservation Planning Boot Camp attendance.
 - It is important to build and maintain relationships and partnership. Conservation district employees need to be at the table.
 - NCDEA's national meeting was in New Hampshire this year. They are working to strengthen the employees there.
- NARC&DC - Patricia Pinnell
 - The RC&Ds are focused on revitalization and working with NRCS on grants and agreements.
- NASCA
 - No Report

Resolutions Pad and Bylaw Amendment Discussion:

- This was the first year of the policy sunseting process. It's a fundamental change and it has been a difficult process to work through. Hopefully it will get better in future years.

Officer Update - Kim LaFleur

Resolutions Pad and Bylaw Amendment Discussion Continued:

- The bylaw amendment would allow district employees to serve on NACD's board, as long as they serve on the board of their respective state association.
 - This is a dramatic change that has the potential to broaden NACD's base and bring more people into the organization.
 - However, it also raises concerns about conflicts of interest and conflating the distinct roles of supervisor and employee.
 - Wisconsin, who proposed the bylaw amendment, does not have a traditional district structure. Their district employees are actually county employees.

Committee Reports:

- Communications -
 - NACD staff is looking into email marketing software that would address some of the limitations of the current membership database.
- District Operations and Member Services -
 - The District Official Training Program Checklist is now online.
 - The Committee is promoting Friends of NACD.
 - They also looked at the dues structure and will recommend to the board that it stays the same.

- Legislative -
 - The farm bill passed and NACD is now going to be looking towards implementation. Some highlights include mandatory, permanent funding for PL-566, renewals for RCPP projects, and a new Office of Urban Ag at USDA.
 - Staff wrote a series of blog posts on the major conservation changes.
 - The Committee had a long discussion about local work groups and the State Technical Committee.
 - The Committee will also be setting appropriations priorities for FY20.
 - Send Eric any ideas on how the RCPP application process could be easier.
- Natural Resources Policy -
 - Adam Pugh is the new staff member for the Committee.
 - RPG Updates:
 - Public Lands - There is an interest in limiting this RPG to just federal public lands.
 - Urban and Community - Twenty districts will be receiving urban agriculture grants this year. More applications for this could be coming from the Northeast.
 - Forestry - The RPG still needs state representatives from MD, DE, NY, and WV that can participate in two conference calls a year focus on sharing information and collecting input. The summer RPG meeting will be in Puerto Rico hosted by NRCS. NACD now has a column in the National Woodlands Magazine.
- Stewardship and Education -
 - The Committee lost a lot of their work when the stewardship and education materials went digital. As a result, they have been struggling with revitalization and reorientation.
 - They are building a new Conservation Hub that will be distributing materials.
 - The 2020 them will be "Where would we be without pollinators?"

Presidents Association Update - Barbara Perlman-Whyman:

- The Presidents Association has been working to be much more engaged and active.
- They will need a new regional representative from the Northeast. Denise Savageau has been in this position, but she is stepping aside.

Officer Update - Lee McDaniel

Officer Update - Michael Crowder

Northeast Region Vice-Chair Election:

- Joe Lomax, Nominating Committee Chair, put forward Cliff Lane for Northeast Region Vice-Chair. The nomination was approved by unanimous consent.

Tribal RPG:

- Cassius Spears was recommended as the Northeast representative on the Tribal RPG by unanimous consent.

NACD Program/Grants Update:

- Technical Assistance Agreements are being offered again this year and renewals are allowed. Applications are due March 1st.
- Conservation Planning Boot Camp is being offered again this year as well.

State Reports:

- Several states provided written reports.

Upcoming Meetings

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