

# 2018 Region Meeting Notes

Monday, July 16, 2018

**NACD Board Members in Attendance:** Edwin Alexander (DE), Linda Brownson (NH), Joe Gumm (WV), Kim LaFleur (NACD Secretary-Treasurer), Cliff Lane (PA), Joe Lomax (NJ), Lee McDaniel (NACD Past President), Denise Savageau (CT), Cal Steuart (Executive Board)

## Agenda:

- Welcome and Call to Order
- Approval of Minutes
- NACD Updates
  - NACD Northeast Executive Board Update – Cal Steuart
  - NACD Officer Update – Kim LaFleur
- Elections
  - Region Chair and Vice Chair
  - Northeast Region Representative to the NACD Executive Board
- Update on the Capacity Building Pilot Project
- 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
- Resolutions (if any)
- Partner Reports – NRCS, NECDEA, NASCA, NARC&DC
- State Reports
  - Please provide a written report
- Upcoming Meetings
  - 2018 Summer Meeting - Aug 2-8, Williamsburg, VA
  - 2019 Annual Meeting - Feb 2-6, San Antonio, TX
- Other Business
- Adjourn

## Notes:

NACD Northeast Executive Board Update - Cal Steuart:

- NACD has been very focused on the Farm Bill.
- Laura Demmel has been named the new Director of Development for NACD.

NACD Officer Update - Kim LaFleur:

- The board will be voting on NACD's budget at the upcoming summer meeting. Unrestricted membership dollars are very important to our organization and the budget keeps NACD's goal for dues in tack.

#### Elections:

- This election will be held electronically later in the summer.

#### Capacity Building Update:

- NACD has finished writing a report on the Tarrytown meeting and it was distributed at the meeting. Eric is working with NRCS, who funded the initial meeting, to determine the next steps.
- The facilitation framework for the meeting was appreciative inquiry. Participants found it refreshing to be at a meeting focused on strengths.

#### Committee Reports:

- Communications
  - No report
- District Operations and Member Services
  - No Report
- Legislative
  - The Farm Bill is the current focus of the Committee. There are three main issues that NACD is following: overall funding for the conservation title, reforms to RCPP, and a proposal to merge CSP and EQIP.
- Natural Resources Policy Committee
  - The Committee has been working on Endangered Species Act reforms recently. It's astonishing how little local input is sought in implementing this law.
  - We need a representative from the Northeast for the Invasives and Tribal RPGs.
  - Adam Pugh is the new NACD staff member for this Committee.
- Stewardship and Education
  - The Committee is focused on reinventing itself and growing. They are developing a new and more comprehensive education curriculum.

#### Resolutions:

- None to Discuss

#### Partner Reports:

- NRCS - Denise Coleman
  - NRCS is currently in the midst of a large hiring push, following a year and a half long hiring freeze. The Agency has already hired 400 people and will hire 400 more by the end of the summer. Undersecretary Northey is focused, in particular, on making sure that NRCS fills behind people who are being promoted.
  - The FPAC Business Center is moving ahead and all functions will be moved there by the beginning of the 2019 fiscal year.
  - There has been a huge turnover on the administrative side of NRCS. These are the employees least connected to conservation. It's this connection that helps NRCS retain employees.
- NCDEA
  - No Report
- NASCA
  - No Report
- NARC&DC
  - No Report
- President's Association - Denise Savageau

- The President's Association is comprised of all current and past state association presidents. It is an opportunity to keep past presidents engaged, especially if they are not on the NACD Board. We do not want to lose the expertise, time, and treasure of these individuals.
- The Association has been providing financial support to the Envirothon.
- Denise has been the Northeast Representative to the Association, but she would like to hand this role off to someone else.

#### State Reports:

- New Hampshire
  - They are in the middle of a five-year demonstration project with NRCS. They have been working with immigrant communities through the Organization for Immigrant and Refugee Success. In Grafton County, there is a county farm where they have been working with cover crops as well.
- Pennsylvania
  - They recently had a lobby day at the state capitol. PA districts received level funding and it was recommended that they ask for an increase in funding next time, especially during an election year.
- Delaware
  - There has been language added to the Farm Bill about using concrete pads for poultry litter.
- Maryland
  - Districts are recognizing the political value in soil health and urban agriculture and they are focusing on these areas. Some districts have even put in demonstration farms.
- West Virginia
  - They elected new officers and held a district official training at their last quarterly meeting.
  - The Appalachian Grazing Conference is coming up. It will be three days long this year.
  - There has been disagreement about who is responsible for maintaining watershed structures. They are getting a determination on this from the Attorney General.
- New Jersey
  - They have very diverse districts and are working to have more uniformity across districts. They have assembled committees that are developing manuals on training, policy and procedure, etc.
  - One district has been really struggling and it has been a good learning opportunity for all districts in the state.
  - They are reviewing the audits of all districts and making recommendations to the state commission.
- Connecticut
  - They have received state funding for the first time in several years. They hired a lobbyist to push for funding, which ultimately worked really well. In FY18, they received \$80,000 per district. Connecticut also has a new program called "Passport to the Parks" that is funded by vehicle registrations. This program is now sending \$100,000 to districts and the Council.
  - State funding is a big win because it is required to participate in the Long Island Sound RCPP. While Connecticut led the way on developing this project, the state defunded their districts in the project's first year. Without the match funding from the state, they have not been able to participate.

#### Upcoming Meetings:

- 2018 Summer Meeting - Aug 2-8, Williamsburg, VA
- 2019 Annual Meeting - Feb 2-6, San Antonio, TX

- 2019 Region Meeting in Connecticut
  - Dates are still to be set, but the meeting will most likely be in southeastern Connecticut on the shore.