

2019 Northeast Region Meeting Notes

Monday, August 26, 2019

Board Members in Attendance: Edwin Alexander (DE), Linda Brownson (NACD Executive Board), Sam Casella (NY), Linda Corse (VT), Dorn Cox (NH), Ray Cywinski (NJ), Cliff Lane (PA), Frank Richardson (MD), Denise Savageau (CT), Carol Weymouth (ME)

Agenda:

- Welcome and Call to Order
- NACD Updates
 - NACD Northeast Executive Board Update – Linda Brownson
 - NACD Officer Update – Tim Palmer
- Elections
 - Region Chair and Vice Chair
- Update on the Capacity Building Pilot Project
- NACD Program Updates
- Committee Reports
 - Communications Committee – DE, NY, WV
 - District Operations and Member Services – MD, ME, VT
 - Legislative Committee – CT, PA
 - Natural Resources Policy Committee (including any RPG news to note) – NH, NJ, RI
 - Stewardship and Education – MA
- Resolutions (if any)
- Partner Reports – NRCS, NECDEA, NASCA, NARC&DC
- State Reports
 - Please provide a written report
- Upcoming Meetings
 - 2020 Annual Meeting - Feb 8-12, Las Vegas, NV
 - 2020 Summer Meeting – July, Bismarck, ND
 - 2020 Northeast Region Meeting – September, Portsmouth, NH
- Other Business
- Adjourn

Notes:

NACD Updates:

- NACD Northeast Executive Board Update - Linda Brownson:
 - Strategic planning at NACD is underway. The draft contains six broad goals and should be ready for review by the board in December.
 - The FY20 budget passed at the NACD Summer Meeting. A substantial portion of the budget is pass-through grants. NACD needs 200 more districts to pay their dues in order to meet our goal for FY19.
 - The Technical Assistance and Urban Ag Grants have been going really well and have gotten a lot of funding on the ground.

Elections:

- Denise Savageau nominated for chair and Cliff Lane nominated for vice-chair by Sam Casella. Seconded by Linda Corse. Elected by unanimous voice vote.

Update on Capacity Building Pilot Project:

- This effort is continuing to move forward. There is a separate workshop taking place at the meeting focused on the pilot. Communications and training have emerged as real priorities.

NACD Program Updates:

- A couple of deadlines are coming up. NACD award nominations and breakout session proposals are due soon. Applications for the Next Generation Leadership Institute are also due soon.

Committee Reports:

- Communications - DE, NY, WV:
 - Staff is growing and doing a great job.
- District Operations and Member Services - MD, ME, VT:
 - The committee is looking at growing the Friends of NACD program and looking at ways that grants could be used to support districts.
 - They are also looking for ways to strengthen the District Officials Training Program. This could be one way to get district officials outside their own boundaries. They are looking at adding additional levels to the program, etc.
- Legislative - CT, PA:
 - Appropriations will not be done by the end of the fiscal year, but NACD is not expecting there to be a shutdown.
 - The August Grassroots Advocacy campaign is continuing.
- Natural Resources Policy Committee - NH, NJ, RI:
 - There has been lots of discussion within the committee about mine reclamation. They are working on gathering more information on the issue.
 - The committee has also been looking at policy language supporting the American Tree Farm System. The system has evolved since the policy passed toward certification and some states, like NH, have not been supported of these changes. Let Linda Brownson know if you have additional information on this.
 - USDA is the process of writing a report on how they are making data available to second-party use and in machine readable formats.
 - The Coastal RPG is coming back together.
- Stewardship and Education - MA:
 - NACD is putting together a new website that will be a hub of information.
 - They are working on refreshing the five-year curriculum rotation.

Resolutions:

- Dorn Cox raised the issue of data access at USDA. USDA is making more data available as a result of the 2018 Farm Bill, but there is still a lot more data out there from a variety of sources, like remote sensing. He proposed a resolution supporting quantifying conservation outcomes and using this data as much as possible.
 - There are some concerns around data privacy with this.
 - Dorn will work on a formal draft resolution for the region board to consider.
- Denise Savageau is interested in a resolution that would call for adding source water protection to the purpose of the Healthy Forest Reserve Program.

Partner Reports:

- NRCS - Denise Coleman
 - NRCS will have a full report during the plenary session of the meeting.
 - CART is rolling out this week.
- NCDEA - Jeff Parker
 - NCDEA is struggling to communicate with all the employees in the region. They are trying to get an updated email list put together.
 - NCDEA has a full board at the national level.
 - NACDE is having their annual meeting tomorrow morning and will be presenting awards.
 - NCDEA has a new website (ncdea.us) and NACDE is trying to reinvigorate their website as well.
- NARC&DC - Rick Mickowski
 - The New England and Mid-Atlantic Associations merged together. New England is down to only three councils.
 - Wilmington, DE is hosting the regional meeting in October.