

**National Association of Conservation Districts
Pacific Region Meeting
Sunday February 9th, 2020
Bally's Casino & Hotel Las Vegas, Nevada**

Meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m.: Kit Tillotson

- Welcome and introductions
- Roll call order – Idaho, California, Guam, Washington, Oregon, and Hawaii are in attendance. Absent – Alaska, Palau, American Samoa, Federated States of Micronesia, and Northern Mariana Islands. Quorum is obtained.

Minutes:

Washington moved to approve the minutes of the Pacific Region Meeting held in San Antonio, Texas; California seconded. Vote: unanimous; Passed.

Notes provided on the Summer Joint Meeting in New Mexico 2019. No action taken due to lack of Quorum.

NACD Update:

- Tom Wehri (Exec Board) let the Board know that we have had an outstanding year. He gave a big thank you to Ariel Rivers for all of the work that she has been doing for the Pacific Region. He encouraged everyone at the table to continue to call himself, Kit, and/or Ariel with any questions or updates that they may have.
- President Tim Palmer stood up and gave a big thank you to all in the room.
- President elect Michael Crowder reminded the Board that he has enjoyed working for everyone and that he is up for election (running unopposed) and would appreciate everyone's support.
- Tom Wehri – discussion on continued success of the NACD grants and boots on the ground. He feels that the Pacific Region can be a bigger player and emphasized the importance of memberships. "Talk to your folks and sell the benefits they receive from NACD and let your Board know your concerns."

NACD Pacific Region Representative Ariel Rivers:

- Ariel Rivers gave her report. Discussion on the continued engagement of our members. She asked how we can better deliver the NACD message. There has been a lot of hard work to bring the membership up. There has been diligence on updating the Pacific website for our region.
- Dues update – see attached.
- Discussion on Boot Camp that includes an additional Boot Camp besides Lincoln, Nebraska.
- Kit thanked Ariel for her passion and energy that she has brought to our Region and that we need to do our best to keep a hold of her. With her help we are trying to have our own viable meeting.
- Guam had a question for Ariel on NACD Technical Assistance available. Discussion.
- Working very hard on open communication and leveraging support for Districts.
- Wade Troutman asked about a database that had been discussed in the past that would query questions across the nation. Would we be able to do something like that on a Regional basis?
- Tim Reilly said he is in charge of a Blog that does something similar. Discussion.
- Joint Regional Meeting will be held in September in Hawaii 2020, Southwest will host in 2021, and we are looking at either Alaska or Idaho for 2022. See attached.

State Reports / State Resolutions:

- See attached

All Districts have/and or will submit their reports electronically to Ariel.

Committee/RPG Reports:

- See attached

NCDEA Report:

- Mandy Parks (CA) Reviewed that NCDEA has been working hard and thanked all employees and staff for their continued support of Districts.

Elections:

Washington moved to elect Kit Tillotson as Pacific Region Chairman; California seconded. Vote: unanimous; Passed.

Idaho moved to elect Doug Rushton as Pacific Region Vice-Chairman; Washington seconded. Vote: unanimous; Passed.

Ariel asked for volunteers for the Parade of States.

Meeting adjourned at 1:55 to go to the Joint Pacific and Southwest meeting at 2:00.

Respectfully submitted by,

 FSWCD
Chris Hatch

Pacific Dues Contributions FY 2020 (as of Feb. 3, 2020):

State	Dues FY-2020	% of Members		Dues FY-2019	Dues FY-2018
Alaska	\$1,050.00	33.3%		\$2,156.00	\$2,060.00
American Samoa	\$0.00	0.0%		\$0.00	\$0.00
California	\$7,040.00	21.5%		\$16,582.00	\$11,230.00
Federated States of Micronesia	\$0.00	0.0%		\$0.00	\$0.00
Guam	\$775.00	33.3%		\$775.00	\$775.00
Hawaii	\$0.00	0.0%		\$850.00	\$850.00
Idaho	\$12,386.00	60.8%		\$18,646.00	\$15,478.50
Northern Mariana Islands	\$0.00	0.0%		\$0.00	\$0.00
Oregon	\$16,658.25	52.2%		\$14,801.00	\$13,752.00
Palau	\$0.00	0.0%		\$0.00	\$0.00
Washington	\$16,752.00	63.0%		\$27,103.00	\$24,257.50
Grand Total	\$53,886.25	39.4%		\$80,913.00	\$68,403.00

Nationwide summaries:

Region	Total Num. of Members	FY-2019			FY-2018			Change in Total Dues Paid	Change in Paid Members	Average Change per Member
		Dues Paid	Paid Members	Average per Member	Dues Paid	Paid Members	Average per Member			
North Central	737	\$245,270.58	458	\$535.53	\$229,491.34	412	\$557.02	\$15,779.24	46	\$(21.49)
Northeast	255	\$107,446.50	167	\$643.39	\$106,193.00	158	\$672.11	\$1,253.50	9	\$(28.72)
Northern Plains	314	\$136,775.35	253	\$540.61	\$137,657.67	255	\$539.83	\$(882.32)	-2	\$ 0.78
Pacific	274	\$80,913.00	165	\$490.38	\$68,403.00	155	\$441.31	\$12,510.00	10	\$ 49.07
South Central	426	\$117,249.11	308	\$380.68	\$116,143.56	308	\$377.09	\$1,105.55	0	\$3.59
Southeast	671	\$275,540.98	520	\$529.89	\$266,376.19	513	\$519.25	\$9,164.79	7	\$10.63
Southwest	272	\$111,680.86	176	\$634.55	\$95,609.85	169	\$565.74	\$16,071.01	7	\$68.81
Grand Total	2949	\$1,074,876.38	2047	\$525.10	\$1,019,874.61	1970	\$517.70	\$55,001.77	77	\$7.40

IDAHO STATE UPDATE

During the past 12 months IASCD has been very active.

After attending last year's conference in San Antonio. Our Board was busy conducting Spring Division meetings around Idaho.

In June we held our summer meeting in Burley. Ariel Rivers joined us for our meeting and discussed the upcoming NACD listening session at our annual conference in November and gave an update on NACD activities. Other actions taken included annual budget development, conference planning and partner agency reports.

Our annual conference was held in November. Ariel was in attendance and gave an update on NACD activities and held a listening session.

The following events were held in January:

- IASCD Winter Board Meeting
- Legislative Social
- Capitol Display Day
- Food Producers of Idaho Meeting
- Idaho Ag All-Stars Banquet
- ISWCC JFAC Budget Presentation
- Meetings with our Congressional Delegation, NRCS, the National Association of Conservation Districts, BLM, Department of Interior, USDA, US Forest Service and EPA.

WASHINGTON STATE UPDATE

1. **Tom Salzer** started as Washington Association of Conservation District Executive Director on January 2, 2020. (360)357-2425 and exec@wadistricts.org

2. **Legislative**

- Legislative Day on January 21 and Board meeting on January 22. 30 districts participating.
- Bills of interest in Washington state legislature

HB 2415 - Conforming elections for certain special districts to Title 29A RCW (Municipals):

- a. Moves CD supervisor elections to the general election ballot.
- b. Eliminates Commission appointment of two members to each CD board. These would become elected positions.
- c. Commission to no longer have a role in conduct of elections, certification, policies/procedures.
- d. If move to the general election statute, all supervisors would be required to complete financial disclosure information.
- e. CDs would be charged their prorated cost of the election.

HB 2588 - Improving openness, accountability, and transparency of special purpose districts. Was approved by the House's Local Government committee. Major WACD concerns:

- a. CD supervisors to file campaign and financial disclosure forms.
- b. All special purpose districts to post meeting agendas online at least 72 hours in advance, and would nullify any action taken at a meeting when that requirement was not satisfied.
- c. All special purpose districts to maintain online copies of the last 12 months of business meetings, a copy of their annual budget, and their most recent audit (*expanding beyond the current requirements under the Open Public Meetings Act*)

3. WACD Resolutions going to NACD - Resolution Status as of December 31, 2019

Resolution	Specific statement of action expected by NACD
Grazing CRP as a Mid-management Practice (Originated with Whitman CD)	NACD supports adding prescribed grazing as an eligible mid-contract maintenance practice to rejuvenate CRP stands and reduce fuel loads.
Loss of Crop Protection Products (Originated with Palouse CD)	NACD supports retaining use of current crop protection products until suitable replacements are found coupled with education on the benefits of these products.

4. **Sunsetting policies** – about 75 contested by Washington as still being relevant. They will be discussed at 2020 NACD annual meeting.

5. Forestry Realm

- WACD is working with our state forestry agency on updating their Forest Action Plan as mandated under recent Farm Bills.
- WACD has connected with the National Wild Turkey Federation on mutually beneficial forestry items.

6. Upcoming NACD meetings

- NACD Fly-in – Washington DC, March 25.
- NACD Summer Meeting - Ramkota Hotel in Bismarck, North Dakota, July 18-21.
- Pacific Region Meeting – Royal Lahaina Resort, Maui. September 14-18.

NCDEA Update

- New Rep:
 - It seems really strange to consider an NCDEA – Pacific Region without Tom Salzer at the helm; however, Tom has recently gotten an amazing job as Executive Director for the Washington Association of Conservation Districts (nice work Tom!) and Mandy Parkes has recently accepted the Region Rep position. Mandy is getting a crash course in NCDEA focus and goals for 2020, but thanks to the incredible reception from other Region Reps and executive board, plus ongoing help from Tom, she is excited about the upcoming year. Mandy is the district manager for the Inland Empire Resource Conservation District (www.iercd.org), a southern California district located between Los Angeles and Palm Springs. She has been with the District since January of 2008 and has been the manager since April 2010, working with staffers on IERCD priorities including open space conservation/habitat uplift; partnering with NRCD on support for area producers; and on education/outreach for K-12 students and adults.
 - Mandy's contact: mparkes@iercd.org / 909-283-7779 (office)/ 909-855-6473 (cell)
 - The alternate Pacific Region Rep role continues to be performed by Vicki Carter, Director at the Spokane Conservation District. Vicki can be reached at:
 - 509-535-7274 x213
 - Vicki-carter@sccd.org
 - Recurring NCDEA meetings: the Association board and region reps get on the phone once/month to discuss Association business. Please send anything for discussion to Mandy in advance of the meeting, and she will be sure to
- Pacific Region Website: Tom previously developed and maintained an amazing Pacific Region website with updates and resources for member districts; however, due to the time required for site upkeep, Tom is recommending that Mandy work with NCDEA to transition content to the regular Employee's Association website where the Pacific Region has a dedicated page. Mandy will work with the NCDEA board and region reps on best way to do this and provide updates on timeline back to the region as soon as they are available.
- The NCDEA Annual Report is being prepared and will be available for the 2020 NACD Conference in Las Vegas
- Looking forward to meeting as many of you as possible while in Las Vegas!



CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF
RESOURCE
CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Pacific Region Report
February 9th, 2020

In 2019-2020, the dedicated CARCD Board of Directors and Executive Director Karen Buhr continued work focused on (1) building the capacity of individual RCDs, (2) increasing the reach and influence of RCDs statewide, and (3) building the sustainability and impact of CARCD for long-term support of and benefit to RCDs. The following highlights represent some of the most exciting areas of growth and development within the Association and RCD network.

CARCD General Updates – Board and Staff

Board of Directors: At the November 2018 CARCD Annual Meeting, an overwhelming majority of voting members approved three resolutions impacting Association Board structure, including addition of staff presence for the first time in Association history. These include northern, central, and southern district manager/executive director voting positions, as well as allowing district managers/executive directors to serve as non-voting regional representatives in the event that no Board Member is willing and able to serve. The approved resolutions also allowed for the addition of three non-voting ex-officio Board seats from strategic CARCD partner agencies.

At the November 2019 CARCD Annual Meeting, voting members unanimously approved a new slate of officers including Paul Williams as the NACD Representative following four years of service as Board President. For the first time in over 11 years, long-time CARCD Board Member Tom Wehri has transitioned off the Board after having served in multiple positions including Board President.

CARCD Staff: CARCD has continued to thrive under the leadership of a strong, dedicated Board of Directors and Executive Director Karen Buhr. In 2019, the Association was operating with a historic high of nine full-time funded staff positions, with areas of focus including revenue development, project management, forestry, and diversity, among other CARCD work. The elevation of staff numbers has resulted in an increase in total Association dues, likely in response to better understanding among RCDs of the role and value of the Association in advancing District position and financial sustainability. One of the best tools for increasing awareness of CARCD benefit has been the development and regular distribution of the CARCD Weekly Digest to all members, detailing current opportunities for RCD funding, staff development, and board training, among other categories. In addition to the Weekly Digest, CARCD has continued supporting ListServes for Board Members and staffers, and portals on the Association website allowing member access to the growing document library and a number of ongoing discussions on a variety of topics benefitting District operations.

Division 9 Updates

In California, Resource Conservation Districts are enabled under Division 9 of the California Public Resources Code. The language in this code has not been meaningfully updated in over 60 years, resulting in antiquated descriptions of District activities and functions focused only on control of runoff, prevention of soil erosion, improvement of land capabilities, and development and distribution of water. Over the past two years, CARCD has been working with the California Department of

Conservation to review existing Division 9 language and to develop recommendations for changes necessary to more accurately reflect the current areas of work of RCDs statewide. In 2020, these recommendations will be formalized, as will next steps necessary to result in official code changes. The need for revisions has been a point of focus for many state agencies who've expressed the need to see an updated suite of duties in RCD code in order to remain comfortable with recommendation of RCDs for a growing variety of statewide uplift/outreach work using public funds.

Resource Highlights

Fire and Forestry: As with other areas of the Pacific Region, California has faced an escalating fire threat over the last decade. The past ten years have included five of the ten largest geographical fires, and seven of the ten most catastrophic fires in California history. The 2018 Camp Fire in Butte County is not the largest fire in California history (that's the 2017 Mendocino Complex fire which burned 489,000 A), but it is considered the most catastrophic in lives lost (85), structures lost (18,804) and total cost (estimated \$16.5B in losses and insurance claims). In response, California's governor Gavin Newsom has initiated release of California Climate Investment funds to develop the Regional Fire and Forest Capacity grant (RFFC Grant) designed to increase local capacity in the northern, central, and southern regions of the State to develop region-wide plans and shovel-ready projects for forest restoration, fire protection, and watershed improvements in support of the California Forest Carbon Plan.

Under this program, a total of \$20M was allocated primarily to state conservancies; however, CARCD ensured RCDs were active recipients of funding, both as direct block grant recipients and as sub-grantees of direct block grant recipients. Two districts were direct recipients, while over 15 districts are participating as partners and sub-grantees of direct block grant recipient agencies. In addition to this funding, CARCD facilitation of role for RCDs in fire and forestry has led to other grant opportunities benefitting District work in pest control in forested regions. It complements the in-progress work facilitated by a \$10M Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) benefitting forest health in the Sierras, originally secured by the Association and funding the work of multiple districts and forest stakeholder agencies in the region.

Monarchs: in the fall of 2019, CARCD announced its successful receipt of \$750K from the California Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB). The Association is administering this grant, and offering direct funds to RCDs throughout the state via solicitation of proposals for projects addressing monarch habitat restoration and technical assistance necessary to develop restoration plans. The funding is essential in addressing the dramatic decline in California's monarch population, most recently estimated to be a 99% reduction since the 1980s. It is also one of many examples of CARCD positioning itself to facilitate a statewide grant capable of funding local projects at a variety of scales, enabling benefit to districts throughout California.

NACD Connection, Collaboration and Benefit

The CARCD Board of Directors and network of Districts continues to benefit from the support of NACD and its Pacific Region leadership. In March of 2019, Pacific Region Representative Ariel Rivers traveled to Southern California where she participated in a tour facilitated by the Inland Empire Resource Conservation District, followed by a daylong Southern Baja Region Meeting facilitated by four partner districts. Both the tour and meeting involved examples of projects from two of the five NACD's Urban Agriculture grant recipients in California. These grants, along with technical assistance grants and very regular updates on both the region and the state benefit California districts tremendously. CARCD will continue efforts to elevate support for NACD among California districts in 2020.

GUAM REPORT

*SUBMITTED: 02/08/2020
PACIFIC REGION MEETING LAS VEGAS NEVADA*

I. GACD MEETING

- A. Newly elected GACD President (Appointed NACD Rep) Michael Aguon . Newly elected VP (Alternate NACD Rep)Kathrina Reyes
- B. Status: The Association is active and in the process of updating its Bylaws and applying for the 501(3)c status. [Request for by-laws]. We have a good team in place, ready to hit the ground running with our partners. We are open to recommendations and support from NACD partners
- C. We have a working committee in place exploring the possibility of revamping and/or standing up an association with our fellow SWCDs in the Micronesia region namely CNMI; FSM; PALAU etc. Although its in the early stages, the conversation has begun. Thank you Ariel and Travis for your guidance and assistance.

II. ONGOING PROGRAMS & PROJECTS:

1. GUAM FERAL SWINE PROGRAM

- A. Status: Ongoing
- B. Began in 2017, Guam SWCDs are working with USDA APHIS WS to help control and manage feral swine populations on the island under a cooperative working agreement.
- C. A total of \$115,000 have been committed collectively by the Guam SWCDs to the program. Approx. 400 Pigs removed per year.
- D. Districts face funding issues to continue program. We are working to identify other local funding sources to help. In fact, the SWCDs were able to advocate to the Governor of Guam the need to continue the program. From that meeting, she allocated additional funds to both districts for the FY2020 feral swine program,
- E. Feral Swine continues to be an issue for Guam's farmers and landowners. Trapping and hunting alone is simply not enough. Fencing, would be the best solution for are farmers.
- F. We continue to work with partners to develop programs and initiatives to address the feral swine issues.

GUAM REPORT

2. UGUM Watershed Restoration. [submit annual report]

- SGSWCD has prioritized the Restoration of the UGUM Watershed. SGSWCD is in partnership with UOG. UOG applied for the USDA NRCS Conservation Innovation grant in where, the district purchased a Drone (as an in kind match). DRONE IS used to disperse seeds balls in hard to reach areas of the watershed. The project has begun. We look forward to sharing the outcomes of the effort with you all possibly during the summer meeting.

3. Northern Guam Water Quality Study

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4. NACD TECHINICAL ASSISTANCE GRANT

- A. Status: Active
- B. Round 1: Completed
- C. Round 2: In progress
- D. FY2020: Pending submission
- E. Lessons Learned: Program is successful. We were able to meet grants objective. Guam is in need of this program. We plan to continue it for as long as the program is available. Currently funding one employee, and we'd like to recruit more.
- F. **Issues:**
 - A. Employee turn over.
 - B. Goal is to increase more conservation through EQIP. It is difficult to get more applications in Guam due to issues such as:
 - Landownership (understandable)
 - Shipping /Payments Rates— Discourages farmers
 - Ranking Process/Competing— Guam still competing with Hawaii and others.
 - Working closely with NRCS' Travis to address these issues. We are lucky to have him.

GUAM REPORT

IV. RESOURCE POLICY & INPUT

A. State Forest Action Plan

- Provided input for the FY2019 update

B. Guam Invasive Species Council (GISC)

- Guam Districts are active voting member with GISC
- Committee Chair for the GISC
- Preparing for the upcoming Guam Invasive Species Awareness Week happening

C. Guam Local Working group Met Oct 04, 2019.

- **Top 5 priority resource concerns identified (in order):**
 1. Soil Quality limitations
 2. Pest pressure
 3. Wind and Water Erosion
 4. Field Sediment, nutrient, & pathogen loss
 5. [Tied] Degraded Plant Condition & Fire Management

D. Natural Resource Policy Group

A.

Hawaii Report

Many staff changes occurred during the year. Our district conservation specialists have been hired by the University or NRCS resulting in a hunt for specialists. HACD president, Brenda Iokepa-Moses accepted a position as head of Rural Development in Hawaii. Her replacement will be selected at our next meeting.

It was a good year at the Legislature and we received two years of funding. The goal this year is to have it become part of the base budget to provide the organization with a better sense of stability. Legislation on procedures for water permitting to provide water for rural communities and agriculture from State lands is currently underway. Users will either need to pay a fee or provide services in kind for watershed management.

In addition to the conservation plans prepared for customers, the Southwest Maui Watershed Plan was approved by EPA and the Department of Health and now qualifies for Title 19 funding.

The NACD poster contest was a success with increased participation. One of our entries from Kauai, received 3rd place in the K-1 category.

Action has resumed on the Lahaina Flood Control Project, critical to save lives and property for the town of Lahaina. We hope to have it completed within the next 4-5 years. Weather extremes have been occurring in the islands resulting in back to back 100 year storms occurring on all of the islands. Impact on Hawaii Island was especially bad as they were just recovering from lava destruction. USDA disaster assistance has been a major help. A measure is being considered this year to update the Hawaii State Water Plan to address these climatic extremes.

The Pacific and Southwest Region meeting will be held on Maui so Maggie Kramp, our Administrative Assistant has been busy planning the event. Sea level rise and flood control will be among the major topics along with visiting some tropical agriculture farms such as cacao that you may not normally see. We hope all of you will come and spend some time in the islands.

Coastal RPG Programmatic Work Plan

1. Establish key areas of interest for Districts
 - a. Vehicle to assess Districts' interests and needs – comprehensive coastal assessment
 - b. Community Resiliency/Sea Level Rise
 - c. Water Quality/Watershed Management/One Water
 - d. Aquaculture/Fisheries
 - e. Natural resource/habitat assessment
 - i. Subaqueous soil mapping
 - ii. Estuaries
 - iii. Coastal wetlands
 - iv. Coastal riparian areas
 - v. Invasive species
 - vi. Salt water intrusion
2. Within each Key Area of Interest, identify a specific list of activities and priority goals, for example:
 - a. Synergize with existing RPGs as necessary (e.g., UAC on Brownfield issues; Invasive Species)
 - b. Assessment, monitoring and course correction of CRPG programs
 - c. Develop vision and mission statement based on key areas adopted
 - d. Determine focus and establish workgroups (as needed) based on interest or need
 - e. Identify existing programs and how districts are already engaged as examples, and also identify areas where districts could help fill a void.
 - f. Identify a list of nonprofits, environmental groups, and other active, engaged and interested parties with whom we can share information
 - f. Identify/engage Sponsors/Partners/Networking relative to
 - i. Framework and guidance to expand relationships
 - ii. Technical assistance
 - iii. Funding
3. Communications/Outreach
 - g. Integrate into stewardship theme
 - h. Envirothon focus on coastal resources/watershed theme
 - i. Participation in National Coastal meetings of governmental agencies and NGOs, networking and integrating into the National Coastal Conservation Movement
 - j. Coastal RPG Conference – November (?) or piggy-back on existing conference
 - k. National symposium

A Collection of District Success Stories for Coastal Conservation

A proposal for the NACD Coastal RPG's consideration

1. Proposal in brief

In 2016, NACD published [*Friends of the Forest: A comprehensive survey of America's conservation districts*](#). NACD Forestry Specialist Mike Beacom says the publication is “**the best business card I have**” and shares copies with prospective partners at conferences and meetings. With stories, photos and data visualizations spread over 30 pages, *Friends of the Forest* highlights the forestry activities of conservation districts around the country.

This is a proposal for the Coastal RPG to consider developing, as part of its work plan, **a collection of coastal conservation success stories from districts around the country**. The goal being to create a promotional booklet, inspired by *Friends of the Forest*, for communications and outreach activities.

2. Why do this?

The Coastal RPG's draft work plan outlines short- and long-term activities to establish and grow the RPG and advance coastal conservation. A collection of district coastal conservation success stories could support the Coastal RPG's management and programmatic work plans by helping to:

- **attract new partners and funding opportunities**, and
- **document and showcase districts' coastal conservation activities**, promoting them to partners as allies in voluntary, locally-led coastal conservation.

3. Getting started given limitations

Friends of the Forest was developed by an established RPG with grant funding to conduct a nationwide phone survey of districts and develop the publication. Without funding, and with current limitations on surveying and printing, the Coastal RPG could look to the example of the 2020 NACD publication *Getting the Job Done: NACD Technical Assistance Grants - A summary of year one activity*. This is a shorter booklet, with a two-page spread for each NACD region, designed with stories, photos and data visualizations. A smaller booklet would be **quicker to produce, less costly to print and a shorter read**.

The booklet could help the Coastal RPG to begin cataloging districts' coastal activities without having to conduct a comprehensive district coastal survey. The Coastal RPG could start identifying these activities and collecting “success stories” (for example, of both ongoing and completed projects) in the following ways:

- **Establishing criteria for:**
 - How to structure the highlighted activities, for example, stories could align under either coastal areas of interest identified in the work plan or geographic regions
 - How many stories to include for each area of interest or geographic region
 - How to highlight the diversity of projects across conducted by districts (for example, if there are specific technical assistance projects, projects involving key partners, projects dependent on volunteers, etc.)
- **Leveraging NACD staff appointed to the Coastal RPG** to collect and write stories, gather photos and compile data for visualizations. Staff may also document districts' activities in a database for future opportunities to seek out story leads, partnership opportunities, etc.
- Partner with NACD's Communications Committee and staff to launch a **social media #hashtag campaign** to encourage districts to voluntarily share their coastal activities. NACD staff to the Coastal RPG could then use these posts as leads for stories to pursue. The campaign could be **timed with National/World Ocean Month in June**.

4. Anticipated level of effort

Getting the Job Done took about four months to complete with part-time staff hours and a contractor for layout and design. A similar timeframe could be anticipated for developing a booklet of coastal conservation success stories collected by NACD staff to the Coastal RPG. In lieu of contract support, enlisting the help of NACD's communications team could be explored for booklet layout and design.

NACD Forestry Resource Policy Group (RPG)

SW/Pacific Regions Update -- -February 9, 2020

Forestry RPG's Strategic Plan

- RPG **strategic plan** was updated and under the umbrella of the NACD strategic plan will be considered for adoption at the National meeting in Las Vegas.
- This document aids in establishing priorities and milestones for the RPG to be able to benefit our membership.

Wildfire 2.0

- There will be 3 locations across the US that will host summits related to wildfire.
- Denver will host the Wildfire 2.0 summit in the southwest followed by a smaller group going to Wyoming the week of June 22nd.
- The Wyoming tour will look at project completed post fire by two conservation districts.

NWTF Partnership

- NACD is working with 7 states to host events involving wild turkey components (youth hunts, field days etc.)
- NM will be hosting an event for the southwest region.
- These events are being tested regionally with hopes of expanding to other states in the future.

Forestry Network

- Forestry RPG region representatives organized multiple calls this year with their state contacts, as well as emails to provide the network with information.
- The network has also had the opportunity to review the strategic plan prior to this week and provide input on the RPG's long-term strategies.

Joint Forestry Team (JFT)

- The week of December 9th, NACD staff Mike Beacom and Jen Hart of Wyoming were in Washington D.C. for a forestry leadership meeting as well as the signing of the JFT's charter.
- The Joint Forestry Team, which consists of NACD, the National Association of State Foresters, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), was formed in 2006 to facilitate working lands collaboration.

Other

The forestry RPG is interested in learning about how your state distributes information. Please let your representative know if your state has a regular e-newsletter or how you are distributing information within your states.

Forestry Notes, Webinars and Stories

- The function of the webinars and **Forestry Notes** is to let the conservation community and others know what is going on in CD land around the nation. <http://www.nacdnet.org/about-nacd/what-we-do/forestry/>
- Follow us (forestry RPG) on Twitter.
- Finally, the Forestry RPG is always interested in hearing about good forestry work that conservation districts are involved in. Please email Mike Beacom your stories. mike-beacom@nacdn.net

Submitted by:

Jen Hart, NACD SW Region Representative - NACD Forestry RPG

Doug Rushton, NACD Pacific Region Representative – NACD Forestry RPG



National Association of
Conservation Districts

NACD Forestry RPG Priorities for 2020

- Keep conservation districts informed of forestry related emerging issues and resource tools and technology through *Forestry Notes* and other NACD communication tools.
- Engage the NACD Forestry Network to expand NACD's grassroots efforts to collect/disseminate information, as well as review and support forest policy.
- Identify and explore emerging forestry issues and opportunities (e.g. forest health, ecosystem services, soil health, water quality, climate change, state forest action plans, Joint Chiefs' Landscape Restoration Partnership, Good Neighbor Authority, Shared Stewardship, Wyden Authority, watershed health, renewable energy, new technologies to support land managers, small landowner stewardship, priority landscapes and landscape-scale approach).
- Monitor and influence ongoing legislative, regulatory, and policy efforts affecting forest landowners and managers (e.g. bioenergy, stewardship contracting, endangered species act, water, fire, smoke and pollutants).
- Advocate for NACD to fulfill contractual obligations for Forest Service, National Wild Turkey Federation, and initiate and strengthen forestry-related partnerships with other agencies and organizations at the national, regional, and state level (e.g. NRCS, NCDEA, NASCA, BLM, NIFA, National Agroforestry Center, NWOA, wildlife organizations, DoD, American Forests, AFF, SAF, ACF, NASF Forest Resources Management Committee).
- Actively participate in the Joint Forestry Team to improve delivery of technical assistance to forest landowners. Actively participate in the Sustainable Urban Forests Coalition to advance urban forestry initiatives.
- Pursue cross linkages between the Forestry and other RPGs.
- Continue engagement in the current and future Farm Bill.
- Emphasize and improve Forestry RPG organization and communication, in part through the use of emerging technologies.
- Support and engage NACD and the National Conservation Foundation in forestry-related events and funding opportunities.

February 9, 2020

Invasive Species RPG

Several Conference calls were held during the year with various districts speaking to the major issues in their region. It was very obvious that there is a range of issues and a national priority system may not meet a regions' need. There was also discussion about preemptory actions, educating regions of issues in other areas that have a real risk of being introduced, to make it easier for rapid response action.

A database that is easily shared among the members was recommended. Collaboration continues with the Western Governor's Group that has identified the top 50 invasive species in the Western Region.

https://westgov.org/images/editor/WGA_Top_50_Invasive_Species.pdf

It was not clear what metric was used other than a question to the various states. WGA's policy statement can be found at

<http://documents.wrwc.us/files/Western%20Governors%20Association%20Policy%20Resolution%2010-4.pdf>

An example of action by the WGA is the passage of the "Stop the Invasive spread of Mussels "

<https://www.oregoninvasivespeciescouncil.org/news-channel/2019/12/18/western-governors-support-stop-the-spread-of-invasive-mussels-act>

The Federal swine program was discussed. Federal funding was distributed but all states that have problems did not receive funding. Reports about success of the initial funding rounds is expected to provide justification for future increased funding. There was also consensus that National Invasive lists may not address local problem. Look towards funding states that can utilize funds to address the most critical issues in their state.

Given the scarce availability of funds and the immensity of the issues, how best to utilize these funds is currently being discussed. Is funding to a state where the state decides how best to use the money the most pragmatic course of action?

During the 2019 meeting priority invasive species were identified. Since then, the spotted lantern fly a major problem in the Northeast Region has been added to the list, bringing the total to 16. The lantern fly spread provided an example of what could have been prevented if a rapid response program had been available when it first showed up in the State. Readily accessible data is critical when new species appear in an area. If any state has a species it would like to have considered to be added to the list, please notify us. The current NACD Invasive Species Priority List includes:

Feral Swine	Knotweed	Thistle
Zebra/Quagga Mussels	E. Red Cedar/other Junipers	Emerald Ash Borer
Garlic Mustard	Japanese Honeysuckle	Palmer Amaranth
Kudzu	Feral Horse/Burro	Asian Psyllid/Citrus Greening
Salt Cedar	Avian Influenza	Pine Bark Beetle
		Spotted Lantern Fly

During the RPG meeting on Saturday, an intensive discussion about feral hogs occurred, everyone agreeing that it is in crisis stage and that solutions will vary by location. Preventive measures are needed in areas where hogs are not present to prevent movement by hunters bringing them into the State.

Arkansas has a pilot project in 4 areas including leasing of traps for use by farmers. Management of such a program is evolving and issues are storage of traps when not in use and repair and maintenance costs. Currently an agreement is signed when borrowing the traps to agree to pay for repair costs if damaged.

Focus on creating a national database that can be shared continues to be the priority.

Discussions have also begun on legal avenues that could be taken to increase awareness and action on invasive species reflecting on the success of the Endangered Species program. Legal consultation was requested if pursuing this avenue is justified. The National Invasive Species Council, a multi agency group formed by Executive Order to protect the United States from invasive species has not met for 3 years. The intent of this group was to ensure that each agency took responsibility for management of invasive species in the country. Reminding them of their responsibility may be warranted.

Indiana presented their initiative CISMA. Cooperative Invasive Species Management, representing a partnership between jurisdictional and landownership boundaries. Partners include County, State and Federal government agencies, non profits and citizen groups. Each group operates within a defined local geographic area and has a strategic management plan. Project as a Coordinator and 4 regional specialists who assist in training and oversight. They also evaluate conservation practices that are used to treat invasive species through NRCS programs. <http://www.sicim.info/>

Discussions will follow at the South Bend summer meetings and working towards a combined session presentation at the National meeting in Louisiana.

Mae Nakahata