



National Association of Conservation Districts

Pacific Region Meeting

Drury Hotel, Santa Fe, New Mexico

Sunday, August 4th, 2019

Meeting was called to order at 1:33 p.m.: Bob Barry

- Bob Barry called the meeting to order, welcomed everyone and asked if there are any additions to the agenda. None offered.
- Jim Berlier (NM) made a motion to approve the meeting agenda; Frank Krentz (AZ) second, motion carried.
- Roll Call:
 - Southwest board members present: Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming.
 - Pacific Board Members present: California, Guam, Oregon, and Washington. The Pacific Region did not have a quorum present.

NACD Update- Jim Berlier

- NACD has approved a new budget.
- Member dues are well ahead of where they were last year.
- Tom Wehri gave a presentation on the importance of membership.
- There was a request for any comments on the bylaw changes from each of the state representatives. None offered.

President- Tim Palmer and First Vice-President

- Briefly spoke to the region and asked if there were any concerns.
- Thanked Brent Van Dyke for his leadership and service.

State Reports

Due to time constraints state reports were provided in writing and attached.

Region Reports:

Pacific:

- Ariel Rivers provided an update on the technical assistance grants that have been provided in the Pacific region. Total funding is about 1.3 million.

Southwest:

- Jeff Burwell provided an update on the technical assistance grants that have been provided in the southwest region. Total funding is just under 2 million.

2020 NACD Summer & Joint Regional Meeting

The next regional meeting will be held on the big island of Hawaii. The time frame is roughly September. More details to come.

NCDEA Report

- Gretchen Rank provided a report for the southwest and stated the NCDEA had met in California and met with other employees.
- NCDEA has funding concerns.
- NCDEA is looking to support a regional training, for employees, which will likely be digital.

Updated January 8, 2020

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National Association of Conservation Districts

Forestry Resource Policy Group, Doug Rushton

- Submitted a written report to the regions (see attached).
- Forestry RPG has 2 new initiatives, focused on wildfire and landscape scale projects.
- The RPG held their summer meeting in Puerto Rico and were able to see shade grown coffee plantation, and joint chief's project.
- The RPG has been working with the forestry network on involving districts in the development of State Forest Action Plans.

Tribal Resource Policy Group, Michael Crowder

- Will be meeting on Wednesday, August 7th.
- This is the 3rd year of the RPG and it is gaining momentum and making positive strides forward.

Presidents Association

Barbara discussed the importance of the association and its benefits.

Other Issues

Bill Dunn briefly discussed two resolutions that Arizona would be bringing to the national meeting. The involved transfer of water from the Mississippi River to the Green River, and a second resolution on the boarder wall.

At 2:04 pm the meeting transitioned into the NACD Listening session.

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Washington State Update
NACD 2019 Summer Meeting and Southwest and Pacific Region Meetings
Santa Fe, NM August 2-7, 2019

- a. **New Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC) director** Carol Smith became the first female head of our state conservation agency starting on May 1, 2019. A former WSCC and Ecology employee, she has a B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. in various biological sciences from the University of Hawaii.
- b. **WACD executive director search** - Our Washington Association of Conservation Districts executive director resigned effective June 28, 2019. So we are gearing up for a WACD Executive Director search.
- c. **Female conservation leadership in WA** – up until June 28 when our state association executive director resigned, we had all female leadership in Washington state – state agency, state association executive director, state association president, NRCS state conservationist, and district employee’s association.
- d. **Legislative session results** – A good session (mostly) where we received \$1 million more in conservation technical assistance than we did last session – and basically held pretty steady in other areas.
- e. **Thurston Conservation District**– two supervisors were removed earlier this year for malfeasance of office and neglect of duty – a first for Washington state. Our staff have unionized and we are in the initial stages of collective bargaining. With an all new board, we are moving in a positive direction.
- f. **Grants from NACD** - 2019 urban agriculture conservation grants and 2019 technical assistance grants – Palouse-Rock Lake and Okanogan Conservation Districts, Spokane Tribe of Indians, and Grant County

Doug Rushton
NACD board member
doug.rushton@conservewa.net



The Coastal Resources Policy Group was established within the NACD Natural Resources Policy Committee in recognition that coastal areas contain extensive and valuable natural resources in juxtaposition and inextricably linked to major populations and the cultural, social and economic well-being of our Nation. Conservation Districts located in proximity to the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, the Gulf of Mexico and the Great Lakes coasts experience many common challenges in resources management. The Coastal RPG serves as a network for managing and addressing natural resource challenges in coastal areas.

CHARGE

To develop and implement conservation programs that are beneficial to coastal states and trust territories, their Districts and other Conservation Districts outside of the coastal areas, as their interests are applicable.

MISSION

The Coastal Resources Policy Group provides leadership, information, and connection to resources to coastal conservation districts which aid in assessing and addressing coastal conservation issues, in addition to exploring opportunities to serve their constituents in the management and responsible use of coastal natural resources.

ROLE OF THE COASTAL RESOURCE POLICY GROUP

As approved by the Natural Resources Policy Committee (NRPC) and the Board of Directors, the Coastal RPG will expand the NACD voice for conservation of coastal resources by providing local insights and expertise concerning emerging issues requiring management and conservation programs. In this regard, the RPG will provide policy guidance to NACD concerning related policies, partners, and programs.

OBJECTIVES

Objective 1: Enhance the role of the core partnership and relationships.

Objective 2: Identify potential agencies, sponsors, organizations, tribes, businesses, and individuals that have relevant coastal conservation interests with whom NACD, states/territories and Districts can partner.

Objective 3: Review NACD coastal and related policies for consistency with current issues, relationships, programs, and possible gaps. Where applicable, prepare draft revised policies for consideration by NRPC and the Board of Directors to address current and anticipated coastal challenges and opportunities, identify and cultivate existing and new potential partners, and address gaps or duplication in current policies.

Objective 4: Prepare draft proposals to existing and potential NACD partners to provide technical and financial assistance to NACD, states, districts, and tribes for coastal conservation initiatives.

Forestry Resource Policy Group (RPG) Update
NACD Summer Meeting and Southwest/Pacific Meetings
August 2-6, 2019
Drury Hotel, Santa Fe, NM

The **Forestry RPG 2019 summer meeting** was in San Juan, Puerto Rico on June 16-21, 2019.

1. RPG priorities updated and to be considered for adoption at Santa Fe meeting.
2. RPG **strategic plan** was updated and under the umbrella of the NACD strategic plan will be considered for adoption at the Santa Fe meeting.
3. Enhancing the **“Forestry Network”** is underway – the goal of which is to establish firm forestry contacts in each state/territory in each region as a communications link. Some states still need to select a representative. Items we are attempting to clarify with Forestry Network representatives:
 - Level of CD engagement of state forestry plans,
 - Establishment of a CD state forestry committee,
 - Participation by CDs in state technical advisory committees in forestry.
4. Regional Forestry Network Highlights
 - **Southwest Meeting - June 10**
 - i. Discussion on prescribed fire and how it fits into existing NACD Policy.
 - ii. Guidance on Good Neighbor Authority and how districts can participate in the process.
 - **Pacific Meeting** - firming up contacts and status of forestry efforts in each state/territory.
5. **Puerto Rico (PR) tour** and thoughts from the meeting
 - Tour included a coffee plantation, a ranch (and teak plantation), and an area being reforested. Coffee plantation had bushes wiped out which have been replaced; ranch was essentially denuded of vegetation (a Joint Chiefs Project), and reforested area was an extremely harsh site – mostly rocks and no soil or shade.
 - Recovery from Hurricane Maria (September, 2017) still evident. Maria was the worst natural disaster on record to affect the Islands: 2,975 killed, reduced habitat for ESA-listed species (sharp-shinned and broad winged hawks, PR frog, PR parrot, and elfin warbler); 30 million trees destroyed; 40,000 landslides and 30 million cubic yards of sediment in *one* watershed.
 - In response to Hurricane Maria, FEMA for the first time funded biological assessments, rather than just infrastructure as they had done in the past.
 - We learned from NRCS they are emphasizing state-by-state agreements rather than broad, national scope agreements with an entire organization



Rocky reforestation site near Guanica (SW Puerto Rico) and coffee being sun—dried at the Café Roig facility near Guayanilla

Submitted by:

Jennifer Hinkhouse; Forestry RPG representative, Southwest Region - icd@vcn.com

Doug Rushton; Forestry RPG representative, Pacific Region – doug.rushton@conservewa.net

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