



# NACD North Central Region Board Meeting

January 5 – 6, 2023  
DoubleTree Hotel  
Minneapolis, MN

## Attendance:

Jeri Thornsberry, IA  
Dale Shumaker, IL  
Roger Wenning, IN  
Marc Roberts, IN  
Jerry Miller, MI  
Kurt Beckstrom, MN  
Ryan Britt, MO

Ron Willis, MO  
Kris Swartz, OH, Region Chair  
Matt Peart, OH  
Monte Osterman, WI  
Bob Micheel, WI  
Beth Mason, NACD, recorder

Others in attendance: 19

## Draft Minutes

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### Thursday, January 5

#### Welcome/Introductions

Region Chair Kris Swartz opened the meeting and requested the attendees each introduce themselves. MN Board Member Kurt Beckstrom welcomed the group to Minnesota and gave an update on the dinner option for those wanting to ice fish as the weather did not permit the group fishing.

#### Carbon Markets, Q & A

Peter Mead of The Nature Conservancy (TNC) was the guest speaker to give a background and lay the groundwork for the discussion topic of Carbon Markets. This was followed by discussion and Q & A.

#### Carbon Markets, the Role of Conservation Districts, and Ecosystem Services Marketplace Consortium (ESMC), Q&A

NACD Past President Tim Palmer gave a presentation on ESMC and followed his presentation with discussion and Q & A.

#### Carbon Market Panel

- Peter Mead – TNC
- Tim Palmer – ESMC & Conservation Districts
- Ed McNamara (MN) – Producer
- Jerry Miller (MI) – Soil Health
- Ryan Britt (MO) – NACD Climate Action Task Force and Farm Bill Task Force Member

Because Mead and Palmer had given presentations, the panel comments began with McNamara, followed by Miller and then Britt. The panel discussion ended with Q & A.

## **Break**

**Farm Bill Panel** – each gives opening comments followed by Q&A/discussion

- Susan Kozak, IDALS, NASCA Regional Representative
- Scott Edwards (MO), NRCS
- Ryan Britt (MO), Farm Bill Task Force Member
- Melissa Higbee, NCDEA Vice President and Farm Bill Task Force Member

This panel ended the day's meeting, and the **Farm Bill Priorities Discussion** was delayed until the next day.

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## **Friday, January 6**

### **Breakfast and networking**

Attendees gathered for breakfast and networking in the meeting room prior to the meeting starting at 8:00 am

### **NACD North Central Resolutions Discussion and Bylaw Amendment Discussion**

*(See Appendix A)*

Jerry Miller (MI) led discussion on the proposed resolution that came out of MI. The resolution is to be submitted by the region, so it was not submitted previously by MI.

MI: Motion to approve the resolution

Second

Discussion

Motion approved unanimously

**ACTION ITEM:** Mason will submit the resolution to NACD on behalf of the North Central Region.

No discussion was requested for the Bylaw Amendment(s), but Osterman gives a Bylaws Committee update and background on the proposed amendments.

### **NRCS Region Conservationist update** – Carrie Lindig, Acting Regional Conservationist – Central Region

Lindig introduced herself and discussed Chief Cosby's top 5 priorities:

1. Equity
2. Climate
3. Urban agriculture/conservation
4. Workforce
5. Partnerships

### **Urban Conservation Discussion**

The board and partners transitioned to discussing the Urban Conservation space.

Break – the board decides to break and during the break, individuals drafted a possible resolution.

### **Urban Conservation Discussion (cont.)**

After the break, Moilanen read a draft resolution to address Urban Conservation.

WI: Motion to support the Urban Conservation Program resolution

*(see Appendix B)*

Second

Discussion

Motion unanimously approved.

ACTION ITEM: Mason will schedule a Zoom meeting for a small committee to convene and write a background for the resolution which will explain the issue. This committee includes Jeri Thornsberry, Monte Osterman, Kris Swartz, LeAnn Buck, Dan Moilanen, and Ryan Britt.

### **NASCA update** – Susan Kozak, Region Representative

Kozak asked the region board to consider combining the January meeting with their NASCA region meeting. Discussion on this idea began. Immediate limitations on scheduling emerged – to have the NASCA conservation tour, it would need to be held at a time other than January, but the winter months are the time when many of the board members (those that are farmers/ranchers) are NOT in the fields. Both groups showed interest in trying to figure this out.

ACTION ITEM: Discussion will be ongoing.

### **NCDEA update and NCPP update** – Melissa Higbee, NCDEA Vice President and NCPP Co-Chair

### **ACED update** – Dan Moilanen (MI)

Moilanen gives an update on the newly formed Executive Directors' Association

### **Approval of Minutes from 7/17/22**

IN: Motion to approve the minutes

Second

Motion unanimously approved.

### **Region Account Update**

Mason reviews the account financials and then transitions the discussion into the current scholarship program as it relates to whether this can continue. With the expense of the January meeting (the purpose for the region dues), the level of scholarships (dollar amount and number offered) cannot continue without eventually depleting the funds.

Mason raised alternative options for consideration.

ACTION ITEM: Swartz requested the board consider options and decide at the region meeting in New Orleans on Sunday, February 12.

### **Region MOA Discussion**

The board reviewed the region MOA.

MO: Motion to approve the MOA for another year.

Second

Motion unanimously approved. Mason sends the signature sheet around for the board to sign and date.

### **Elections**

NACD Past President Tim Palmer presided over region elections

- Region Chair  
WI: Nominates Kris Swartz (OH) for Region Chair  
Second to the nomination  
No further nominations  
Call for a vote: Board unanimously re-elects Kris Swartz (OH) as North Central Region Chair
- Region Vice Chair  
IN: Nominates Kurt Beckstrom (MN) for Region Vice Chair  
Second to the nomination  
No further nominations  
Call for a vote: Board unanimously re-elects Kurt Beckstrom (MN) as North Central Region Vice Chair

### **North Central Region Farm Bill Priorities Discussion**

(Rescheduled from the previous day's agenda due to time constraints)

Going around the room, each board member shares what their state's top priorities are for the next Farm Bill, and the attendees discuss each of those items.

ACTION ITEM: Board members are instructed to forward their priorities to Ryan Britt (MO) who represents the North Central Region on the NACD Farm Bill Task Force so he can present them to the Task Force for consideration/discussion.

### **Meeting adjourned**

IN: Motion to adjourn

Second

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:15 am was unanimously approved.

**NC-NACD Proposed Resolution Addressing Elimination the Use of Term “Conservation Tillage”.**

**Resolution: NACD supports elimination use of the term “conservation tillage” in all references.**

**Sponsoring entities and Date of Adoption:** Kent Conservation District (MI), July 13, 2022; Michigan Association of Conservation Districts, December 6, 2022; North Central Region, National Association of Conservation District, January 6, 2023.

**Issue:** The term “conservation tillage” is an outdated concept which is no longer applicable for conservation programs and, therefore, no longer useful for conservation implementation. The term is about tillage, not conservation. The term “conservation tillage” is an antiquated terminology from the 1985 Farm Bill implementation defined as 30 percent residue after planting.

There is nothing “conservation” about tillage! Tillage can have legitimate uses in producing food, feed, fiber and fuel, but tillage is tillage, it is not conservation. The term “conservation tillage” can mean different things to different people, it is not truly descriptive nor elimination of tillage.

Descriptive tillage terms may include minimum tillage, mulch tillage, full-width tillage, vertical tillage, ridge tillage, strip tillage and reduced tillage none of which are no-tillage

Conservation Districts strive to promote practices that help to improve soil health and enhance water quality. Continuing to use the term “conservation tillage” gives producers a false sense of accomplishment. As an example, a double disk ripper with 22” blades running 16” deep may be better than a moldboard plow, however, it is not truly a conservation tool.

**Issue if Resolution is not adopted:** Farmers and producers will continue to believe they are truly conservation farmers sanctioned by Conservation Districts and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

**NC-NACD Proposed Resolution to Create Urban Conservation Program within 2023 Farm Bill**

**Sponsoring Entities and Date of Adoption:** NACD North Central Region, January 6th, 2023

NACD supports Farm Bill policy changes for the creation of a new urban and community natural resources program within the Farm Bill.

**Background:** Recognizing that the 2018 Farm Bill Conservation Title is insufficient in addressing urban and community resource and conservation needs, for developed and developing communities, and those in urban interface.