

NACD PACIFIC REGION BOARD Zoom Call – 03/07/2023

DRAFT AGENDA w/ Notes (Caleb Griffin): Meeting facilitated by NACD Region Chair Terri Preeg-Riggsby

OPENING & ATTENDANCE AT 4:00 PM:

Terri Preeg-Riggsby – NACD Pacific Region Chair - OR

Sarah Jones – Executive Director, Placer County RCD, CA

Michael Aguon – NACD Pacific Executive Board Member - GU

Michael Crowder – NACD Immediate Past President - WA

Tom Salzer – Executive Director, Washington Association of Conservation Districts, WA

Larry Davis – Board Member, Whatcom CD, WA

Kathrina Reyes – NACD Pacific Vice Chair - GU

Craig Nelson – Executive Director, Okanogan CD, WA

Derek Emmons – Ag. Conservation Coordinator, Contra Costa RCD, CA

Mae Nakahata – Legislative Chair, Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts - HI

Doug Rushton – NACD Board Member - WA

Ariel Rivers – NACD Director of Membership Engagement - CA

Shana Joy – Washington State Conservation Commission & National Association of State Conservation Agencies (NASCA) President - WA

Trisha Cracroft – NRCS Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations, ID

Ryan Baye – Washington Association of Conservation Districts Legislation Director, WA

Teddy Lee Conception – District Director, Northern Guam SWCD, GU

Ronalda Angasan – Agriculture Program Director, Alaska Village Initiatives/AgAlaska, AK

Curtis Elke – NRCS State Conservationist, ID

Rachelle Plummer – Natural Resources Specialist, Alaska Village Initiatives/AgAlaksa, AK

Caleb Griffin – NACD Pacific Region Representative – CA

1) Quick NACD Annual Meeting Recap – All Members – Election Update

Michael Aguon – New Region Exec. Board Member

Terri Preeg-Riggsby – New Region Chair

Kathrina Reyes – New Region Vice Chair

See last month's meeting minutes for details on pacific region session at NACD Annual Meeting in February.

2) DC Fly-In & NACD Advocacy

a) Pacific Membership Presence – Who is attending?

• **8 from WA:**

Ryan Baye – WACD

Larry Cochran – WA State Conservation Commission

Roylene Comes at Night – WA NRCS

Michael Crowder – WACD/NACD

Keith Griswold – WA NRCS

Cherie Kearney - WA State Conservation Commission

Chris Pettit – WA State Conservation Commission

Doug Rushton – WACD/NACD

Daryl Williams – WA State Conservation Commission

• **2 from HI**

Mae Nakahata – HACD/NACD

J.B. Martin – Pacific Islands Area NRCS

• **1-2 from GU**

Michael Aguon – GACD/NACD

Teddy Concepcion – Northern Guam SWCD (tentative)

b) Issue Papers (see fly-in agenda):

Fiscal Year 2023 Appropriations Issue Paper | [PDF](#) |

Fiscal Year 2023 Forestry and Wildfire Issue Paper | [PDF](#) |

Fiscal Year 2023 Wildlife Management Issue Paper | [PDF](#) |

Fiscal Year 2023 Climate Change Issue Paper | [PDF](#) |

Fiscal Year 2023 National Watershed Coalition Appropriations Issue Paper | [PDF](#) |

Are there any mutual priorities for the members of the region that fly-in attendees could coordinate efforts on, on behalf of region?

Forestry & Wildfire Issue Paper Summarized & Discussed

Appropriations Issue Paper Summarized & Discussed

Oregon –

It is key to relate to NACD issue papers to locally applicable issues so that legislators understand how it impacts them and their communities.

Idaho –

Current forestry and wildfire funding in place is being utilized and depended on; anticipation of more needs based on popular demand by stakeholders:

Joint Chief's Initiative

Cheatgrass Eradication Initiative

Shared Stewardship

Urban Forestry Programs

Guam –

Coastal Forestry Priorities related to Erosion Control and Water Quality

Interest in discussing access to FSA's transportation reimbursement program (for geographically disadvantaged producers) with relevant legislators and with NACD for future resolutions/issue papers.

Will schedule follow-up discussion with other affected partner states/territories.

Washington –

In corresponding w/ congress, WA tries to focus on local impacts within the legislator's electorate, referencing district activities that impact the individual and their constituency in familiar ways.

Hawaii –

Much weight is placed on the importance of NRCS Conservation Operations funding, namely CTA due to local limitations in technical services and service providers.

c) Farm Bill Requests (see fly in agenda)

- NACD's collaborative work over the last year has been focused on developing farm bill recommendations, with a high priority on keeping allocation amounts intact. It is important to advocate for NACD's farm bill priorities to ranking members of congress and relevant congressional committee members.

d) Alternative Advocacy Methods (If not attending Fly-In)

- Appointments by phone or zoom meeting with legislators where travel is limiting factor.
- Written correspondence to legislators (letters of support for NACD's Farm Bill Requests & Issue Papers topics).

- Communicate the benefits of keeping the farm bill as strong and supportive as possible.

e) Pacific Region Advocacy Coordination

- As neighbors within the region, states and territories can advocate for mutually beneficial priorities. Feel free to correspond with others in the region who may share priority issues and farm bill suggestions with you and take advantage of the potency in unified messaging. NACD issue papers and Farm Bill Requests can be found here: <https://www.nacdnet.org/general-resources/issue-papers/> and here: <https://www.nacdnet.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/NACD-FARM-BILL-REQUESTS-1.pdf>, respectively.

3) Region Leadership Reminders (Strategic & Work Plan Review/Revision)

- Pacific Region Leadership, please keep the region strategic plan and work plan in consideration as NACD's national strategic plan undergoes changes. Our May meeting will focus on the following items:
 - 1) Fly In/Advocacy Recap
 - 2) Climate Smart Commodities Update
 - 3) Region Strategic Planning

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 5:06 PM

Additional Notes:

Collaboration in training and facilitating access to grant resources is ongoing priority for local districts.

Streamlined capacity building remains top priority for many districts who lack staff time to seek and apply for more funding opportunities (especially with so many new opportunities on the horizon).

Climate-Smart Commodities update:

NACD is still negotiating climate smart commodities funding with USDA and hopes to have more information in April. As a national agreement, funds have not been designated for specific allocations to regions, states, or territories. There will be a competitive subgrant process for interested districts to participate in. Around half of the budget is designated for financial incentives for producers to implement conservation practices. Around \$30M is designated for a competitive Technical Assistance funding opportunity.