



North Central Region Board Meeting

New Orleans Marriott | New Orleans, LA

Studio 3/4 Room

February 12, 2023

1:00 – 2:45 pm

Board Members in Attendance:

Ramona Nitz, IA

Jeri Thornsberry, IA

Dale Shumaker, IL

Roger Wenning, IN

Stan Moore, IN

Jerry Miller, MI

Kurt Beckstrom, MN, Region Vice Chair

Ryan Britt, MO

Ron Willis, MO

Kris Swartz, OH, Region Chair

Matt Peart, OH

Monte Osterman, WI

Bob Micheel, WI

Recorder: Beth Mason, North Central Region Representative

Draft Minutes

1:00 pm

Welcome and Introductions

Approval of Minutes

Motion: Ohio makes a motion to approve the minutes from the January board meeting.

Second

Motion unanimously passed

Region Account Update, Region Dues and Scholarship Discussion

Beth Mason reviews the status of the region account after having settled the expenses from the January board meeting.

Motion: Minnesota makes a motion to increase region dues to \$500 per state for FY 2023.

Second

6 states approve, 2 states against (Indiana and Wisconsin)

Motion: Ohio makes a motion to change the scholarship program to issuing 1 scholarship per year at \$800.

Second

Discussion

Amendment: Michigan offers an amendment to the motion to offer 2 scholarships per year at \$500 each

Second

Discussion

7 states approve, 1 state against the amendment

7 states approve, 1 state against amending the original motion

The region will now offer two scholarships per year at \$500 each.

Director of Government Affairs Update

Chris Young gives a Government Affairs update to the region followed by Q&A

Officer Candidate Visit

NACD Past President Tim Palmer introduces the slate of officer candidates. Each gives comments.

Gary Blair, 1st Vice President

Bill Simshauser, 2nd Vice President

Mark Masters, Secretary-Treasurer

Michael Crowder, current President, endorsing Kim LaFleur, President-Elect

Resolutions Discussion/Hearing Assignments

It was decided that Jerry Miller would take the lead in the hearing for the **Conservation Tillage Resolution** and Monte Osterman would take the lead in the hearing for the **Creation of an Urban Conservation Program within 2023 Farm Bill Resolution**.

Executive Board Report with Q&A

Steve Stierwalt explains that most of the information he could provide was already mentioned in the full board meeting, so he turns over his remaining time to Meg Leader, NACD Director of Conservation Programs to share about the Technical Assistance Grants.

Leader explains that soon there will be a full RFP for the Technical Assistance Grants – no priority requests this round. It will be open for 60 days. NRCS' priorities are for the underserved, DEI, etc., and those need consideration in everything we do.

Executive Board Elections

Wisconsin: Nominates Ryan Britt for the position of North Central Region Executive Board Member Second

Nominations closed due to no further nominations

Ryan Britt is declared North Central Region Executive Board Member with unanimous support

Because NACD leadership has established Executive Board training before the NACD Annual Meeting, the region will be moving their Executive Board elections to the NACD Summer Meeting prior to the NACD Annual Meeting so the winning candidate can attend the training without issue. While the election would be held at the Summer Meeting, the winning candidate would not officially take office until after the upcoming NACD Annual Meeting. However, he/she would be able to attend any training requested. *

January 2024 North Central Region Meeting Discussion

Brief discussion was held on if it was possible to change the time of the year. Dale Shumaker (IL) volunteered for Illinois to host the 2024 January Board Meeting. Mason will work with host state on options and logistics. Discussion and agenda items will be decided later in the season.

Monthly Region Zoom Meeting Discussion

The board decided to keep the region zoom meetings at the same time as last year's – fourth Tuesday evening of the month, 7:00 pm Central/8:00 pm Eastern.

Assign Parade of State Representatives

Mason explains this part of the Monday program and requests that states coordinate one representative to participate and attend the morning rehearsal/picture.

Partner Comments

Various conservation partners were attending the meeting and shared comments and/or updates:

- Scott Edwards, Missouri NRCS
- Eric Shideler, NCDEA North Central Region Representative
- Melissa Higbee, NCPP Co-Chair
- LeAnn Buck, MASWCD Executive Director
- Meg Leader, NACD Director of Conservation Programs
- Jon Hubbert, Acting Regional Conservationist (Northeast Region)
- Susan Kozak, NASCA North Central Region Representative
- Janelle Mead, OFSWCD Executive Director, ACED North Central Region Representative
- Gene Schmidt, NCF Board of Trustees

Motion: Indiana makes a motion to adjourn the meeting

Second

Motion unanimously passed

Meeting is adjourned at 2:35 pm

Announcement of Upcoming Meetings:

- 2023 NACD Spring Fly-In, Washington, DC – March 22 - 23
- 2023 NACD Summer Board Meeting, Bismarck, ND – July 15 - 19
- 2024 NACD North Central Region Winter Board Meeting (TBD)
- Monthly North Central Region Zoom Meetings (TBD)

* To hold an open Executive Board Member Election, the best timing was determined to be the NACD Summer Meeting where there is a large group of attendees. The January board meeting is a much smaller meeting of 30 – 40 people which might not be as open a venue for any potential candidates. The Executive Board Member does not have to be a current NACD Board Member, but he/she can be a local board member and therefore a larger, more open meeting would be considered a better option.