



North Central Region Board Meeting

Bismarck Hotel and Conference Center

Bismarck, ND

Missouri Ballroom - Heart

July 16, 2023 | 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Attendance:

Roger Wenning (IN)

Ramona Nitz (IA)

Jeri Thornsberry (IA)

Jerry Miller (MI)

Kurt Beckstrom (MN)

Ron Willis (MO)

Matt Peart (OH)

Kris Swartz (Region Chair, OH)

Monte Osterman (WI)

Bob Micheel (WI)

Ryan Britt (Executive Board)

Beth Mason (NACD Region Representative, Recorder)

Others in attendance: 10 (approximately)

MINUTES

Welcome and Introductions

Introductions were made around the room.

Approval of Minutes

Motion: Ohio makes a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the Region Meeting in New Orleans, February 12, 2023.

Second

The motion unanimously passed.

NRCS Regional Conservationist Remarks

Carrie Lindig, Acting Central Regional Conservationist gave an NRCS Report highlighting Chief Cosby's

Top 5 priorities:

1. Climate focus
2. Urban
3. Partnerships
4. Equity
5. Hiring

There are also 2 new state conservationists – Tammy Willis, Acting Illinois State Conservationist and Tyrone Larson, Wisconsin State Conservationist. The posting for the Indiana State Conservationist is still open.

The remarks ended with Q & A

Director of Membership Remarks

Ariel Rivers, NACD Director of Membership introduced herself, thanked the board for their support, and gave some remarks.

Region Account & Region Scholarship Updates

Beth Mason highlighted the activity on the region account and the projected expenditures prior to the next round of dues to come in. With this update, she also mentioned the status of the regional

scholarships – two \$500 scholarships are still available to IL, IN, or OH to send a board member who has never attended an NACD meeting to the 2024 NACD Annual Meeting in San Diego. The deadline to claim these scholarships is December 1, and then it will open up to the rest of the states to claim, as there is a rotation that allows every state a chance to claim a scholarship, making sure everyone gets a chance. Since IL was not in attendance, Mason will let them know.

Motion: Ohio makes a motion to approve the report as stated.

Second

The motion was unanimously passed.

The January 2025 Region Meeting location was discussed, and Iowa volunteered to host it.

Executive Board Report

Ryan Britt, North Central Region Executive Board Member gave an update from the Executive Board Meetings.

Britt is encouraged by the budget figures – most of it is coming from grant funding. NACD is putting much of the funding in reserve while things are good.

NGLI discussion – There are funding issues. Half is funded through NRCS and the rest through NCF, but their fundraising has been difficult. Most of the region board feels that the funding should be stabilized and come from NACD rather than NCF, but Britt explained there are some issues with NACD taking that program over/from NCF.

Britt discussed the DEI training.

Meeting dates and locations were shared:

- 2024 NACD Annual Meeting – San Diego, CA – February 10 – 14
- 2024 NACD Summer Meeting – Boston, MA – August 10 – 13
- 2025 NACD Annual Meeting – Salt Lake City, UT – February 8 – 12
- 2025 NACD Summer Meeting – TBD (Indiana, Michigan, and Wisconsin are North Central states that would like to be considered as locations for the meeting)
- 2026 NACD Annual Meeting – San Antonio, TX – February 14 – 19

January Board Meeting Discussion

The 2024 January Board Meeting was discussed and Mason asked for ideas for the program as well as anyone who would like to brainstorm as a program committee on developing topics.

Program Staff Introductions/Update

Meg Leader, NACD Director of Conservation Programs and Dr. Loutrina Staley, NACD Equity and Outreach Program Analyst introduced themselves and gave an update on the upcoming grants.

NASCA Update

Mike Beacom, NASCA Executive Director introduced himself and gave some comments.

NRCS Regional Conservationist Remarks

Jon Hubbert, Acting Northeast Central Regional Conservationist provided some remarks.

Board Business Discussion Kris Swartz, Region Chair
Monte Osterman began a discussion on the Texas statement about DEI which was read in the NACD board meeting.

NACD President Remarks

President Kim LaFleur stepped into the meeting during the discussion about the Texas statement on DEI and gave some additional comments on the topic as well as on other items.

Additional Staff Introductions/Remarks

Karla Maldonado-Mitchell, Chief Financial Officer and Bolar Amarsanaa, Director of Finance and Operations came into the meeting to introduce themselves and give some remarks.

Keith Owen, Director of Stewardship and Education came into the meeting to give a brief update on the Stewardship and Education program and the new materials that will be produced, and he also promoted the NCF Next Generation Leadership Institute (NGLI).

Legislative Update Chris Young, Director of Government Affairs

Chris Young came into the meeting and gave the board a legislative update which included a Farm Bill update. He said it is not looking good for a 2023 Farm Bill, but that he will continue to keep the membership informed.

NCDEA Update..... Melissa Higbee, NCDEA President

Melissa Higbee announced that the NCDEA will be meeting in Detroit, MI September 11 – 12

90th Anniversary of the Coon Creek Watershed Project Bob Micheel, WI Alternate Board Member

Bob Micheel reminded the board about the upcoming anniversary celebration of the Coon Creek Watershed Project to be held in La Crosse, WI on September 9 and encouraged folks to travel in to attend.

Adjournment

Motion: Missouri made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:05 am

Second

The motion to adjourn was unanimously passed.

Announcements:

- [NACD Service Awards](#) Nominations open through August 31
- NACD Executive Directors Conference, Nashville, TN, TBD
- [NACD North Central Region Meeting](#), Springfield, IL, January 11 - 12, 2024
- NACD Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA, February 10 – 14, 2024