



North Central Region Board Meeting

Renaissance Boston Waterfront Hotel
Boston, MA
Salon F
August 11, 2024 | 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Attendance

Jeri Thornsberry (IA)
Josh Curry (IL)
Roger Wenning (IN)
Stan Moore (IN)
Randy Smith (MN)
Jerry Miller (MI)

Ron Willis (MO)
Kris Swartz (OH), Region Chair
Matt Peart (OH)
Monte Osterman (WI)
Ryan Britt, Executive Board
Beth Mason, NACD, recorder

5 additional attendees

Draft Minutes

Welcome and IntroductionsKris Swartz, Region Chair

Approval of Minutes

Ohio - Motion to accept the minutes from the North Central Region Meeting on 2/11/24.

Second

Motion unanimously approved

Region Account Update Beth Mason, Region Representative

Mason verbally highlighted the account activity and what to expect in the coming 6 months.

Region Scholarship Update..... Beth Mason, Region Representative

Mason explained that the status of the region scholarships with Illinois using theirs with Josh Curry at the summer meeting and Ohio being the last one in the rotation with the option to use the second of the 2 2024 scholarships for NACD Annual Meeting. Ohio has to claim the scholarship by 12/1/24 or it will be open to all states on a first-come, first-served basis as of 12/1/24. The current scholarships are \$500 ea.

Wisconsin - Motion to establish an additional one-time scholarship at \$750 for the 2025 NACD Annual Meeting for any local SWCD director as a first-time attendee.

Second

Discussion

Motion approved 7 – 1

Further discussion

Michigan - Motion to rescind the establishment of the \$750 scholarship, and instead, create a total of 3 \$600 scholarships to start in the next year in memory of Kurt Beckstrom, former NACD board member and Region Vice Chair from Minnesota.

The scholarships awarded in a new rotation of states on a first-come, first-served basis to a first-time attendee, local board member to the 2025 NACD Summer Meeting or 2026 NACD Annual Meeting.

Second

Motion unanimously approved.

NACD 1st Vice President Gary Blair entered the meeting and gave comments to the attendees regarding serving on committees and subcommittees. Encourages attendees to share with him their preferences and encourage others not on the board to consider serving on subcommittees.

Executive Board Report Ryan Britt, Executive Board Member
Britt shared with the board on topics such as staffing challenges, finances, membership dues, upcoming meetings (looking at 2027 & 2028 annual meeting options), 2025 Annual Meeting schedule/program changes, overhaul of the NACD website, etc.

In the midst of Britt’s report, he introduced **2nd Vice President Bill Simsauser** who entered the meeting to make some comments.

NRCS Report by Louis Aspey, Associate Chief
Aspey entered the meeting and gave some comments.

NRCS Report by Curtis Elke, Regional Conservationist (Central Region)
Elke entered the meeting and gave some comments.

Nomination Committee
Swartz mentions the upcoming NACD officer elections and shared an update on the nomination committee as all Region Chairs serve on this committee. The deadline to submit a form to run for office is November 1.

Executive Board Elections
Swartz recognizes there are no additional candidates for Executive Board other than Ryan Britt running for re-election.
MO – Motion to re-elect Ryan Britt as North Central Region Executive Board Member
The motion was unanimously approved, and Ryan Britt was re-elected for a second term.

Swartz states that although there is a vacancy in the Region Vice Chair position due to the passing of Kurt Beckstrom, the region will not hold an election for that position until the January region meeting in Des Moines, IA, January 9 – 10.

January Board Meeting Discussion Beth Mason, Region Representative
Mason shares the Save the Date postcards for the meeting and the document in the packet to help with brainstorming ideas for topics, speakers, and folks to invite to the meeting. The board discussed some of the items on the list and gave Mason their feedback. A few members turned in notecards with their ideas/comments to be considered. Mason will follow up on the suggestions and will bring in the host state leaders for assistance/guidance.

NRCS Report by Kasey Taylor, Regional Conservationist (Northeast Region)
Taylor entered the meeting and gave some comments.

Association of Conservation Executive Directors (ACED) update Janelle Mead, North Central Rep.
Mead updated the board on the ACED annual meeting this fall and opened it up for Q&A.

National Conservation District Employees Association (NCDEA)

Melissa Higbee, president of the NCDEA and co-chair of NCPP gave some comments and encouraged the board to invest in and prioritize professional development for district employees.

Jerry Miller offered some ideas for the January meeting. Mason will contact him to get more information.

Roger Wenning shares about the Indiana Farmer-to Farmer mentoring program

Chessa Ossefoort, NACD Program Manager reminds attendees that the 2024 Application period for the NACD Technical Assistance Grants is now open!

Meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Announcements:

- [NACD Service Awards](#) Nominations open through August 31, 2024
- NACD Executive Directors Conference, Manhattan, KS, October 1 – 2, 2024
- [NACD North Central Region Meeting](#), Des Moines, IA, January 9 – 10, 2025
- NACD Annual Meeting, Salt Lake City, UT, February 8 – 12, 2025