



Texas State
Soil & Water
Conservation
Board



Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board

NACD At Work District Director Training





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Who is NACD?

- Vision
 - America's Voice for Natural Resources Conservation
- Mission
 - NACD serves conservation districts by providing national leadership and unified voice for natural resource conservation.



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NACD Goals

The goals of the organization are to:

- Represent districts as their national voice on conservation issues
- Provide useful information to conservation districts and their state associations
- Build partnerships with federal and state agencies and other organizations in order to carry out district priorities and programs
- Analyze programs and policy issues that have an impact on local districts
- Offer needed and cost-effective services to districts.



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NACD Philosophy

- The association was founded on the philosophy that conservation decisions should be made at the local level with technical and funding assistance from federal, state and local governments and the private sector. As the national voice for all conservation districts, NACD supports voluntary, incentive-driven natural resource conservation programs that benefit all citizens.
- The association's philosophy is that conservation decisions should be made by local people with technical and funding assistance from federal, state and local governments and the private sector. The association's programs and activities aim to advance the resource conservation cause of local districts and the millions of cooperating landowners and land managers they serve.



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What does NCAD do?

- NACD represents conservation districts from across the nation on a daily basis in Washington D.C.
- The association provides national leadership and a unified voice for natural resource conservation.
- Our staff works with state, regional and national leaders to effectively convey the concerns and needs of districts to the people who have the power to make decisions.



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Born of the Dust Bowl...

- Spring of 1935
- The Great Depression and Midwest Drought
- Congress passed Public Law 46





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A little background...

- The spring of 1935 was not a very cheerful time in America. A great Depression had the country in its grip, and the problems of jobless, homeless people preoccupied the nation's leadership. To make matters worse, the Midwest was going through a serious drought, and wind-blown topsoil from Texas and Oklahoma had been seen as far as 300 miles out in the Atlantic Ocean.
- Among the ideas being considered by Congress was a new national soil conservation program. The expert witness that the Senate Public Lands Committee called on April 2, 1935, to testify on the bill before them was Hugh Hammond Bennett, a soil scientist who had been active in the Department of Agriculture's soil survey work since 1903, and who headed up the soil erosion work that had been ongoing in the Interior Department since 1933. Bennett was widely known as a knowledgeable, articulate, and dedicated spokesman on the problems of soil erosion.



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Board

Background Continued

- Bennett was in no hurry as he testified. Fact after fact was brought forth to convince the Senators of the seriousness of the problem. That Bennett knew the facts to back his case was not in doubt, and for that matter, neither was the seriousness of the situation. But Bennett was not content to win his case with mere facts; his was the heart of a showman. He knew that another major dust storm was on its way, and he orchestrated his testimony accordingly. Slowly, he proceeded through his material, all the while hoping that the storm would hurry up and arrive.
- Finally, the room began to darken, As the Senators, staff and assembled witnesses gathered at the window, the billowing, roiling clouds of soil blotted out the sun, and the fine grit could be felt between the teeth. It was nature that really testified that day; Hugh Bennett just timed the show. The result, of course, was that Congress speedily passed Public Law 46, the soil conservation act that has been the basis for the most extensive and aggressive soil conservation program in the world.
- Source: Sampson, Neil. For Love of the Land. 1985.



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Who do I call?

- The NACD leadership and staff are available to you at any time. If you have a concern that needs to be addressed, please pick up the phone and call our staff or officers or send them an email.
- The more we are aware of your needs, the better equipped we are to represent districts in Texas.
- 509 Capitol Court, NE
Washington, DC 20002-4937
P: (202) 547-NACD (6223)
F: (202) 547-6450

Contact information available at
www.nacdnet.org





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NACD Regions





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Our Members

- Nearly 3,000 conservation districts
- Led by 17,000 elected or appointed district officials
- Partner with federal, state, and local government agencies, and private entities and individuals
- Over 8,000 conservation district employees
- Stewards of the nation's private lands



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Who we serve...

- Farmers
- Ranchers
- Landowners
- Urban dwellers
- Developers
- Federal, state, and local governments



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Key Principles

- Locally Led
- Resource Driven
- Voluntary Services
- Conservation of Private Lands





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Policy Priorities

- Three Tiers
 - I. Initiate/Lead Efforts
 - II. Participate in Efforts
 - III. Monitor and Seek Opportunities to Advance Conservation District Policy





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Tier Priority Definitions

- NACD's policy priorities are set each year by the board of directors at the Annual Meeting. The priorities are separated into three tiers.
- Tier 1 priorities are designated as issues on which NACD will initiate or lead efforts.
- Tier 2 priorities are designated as issues on which NACD will participate and take an active role when appropriate.
- Tier 3 priorities are issues of importance to the organization that the association continually monitors and seeks opportunities to represent conservation districts.



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Communications

- eNotes
- Website
 - www.nacdnet.org
- News & Views
- Forestry Notes
- Buffer Notes





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Communications Continued

- NACD seeks to communicate with their member districts through a number of publications.
- **eNotes**
Distributed weekly to approximately 9,000 people including all districts, board and staff, selected partner organizations
- **Website**
<http://www.nacdnet.org/>
- **News & Views**
Approximate distribution of 23,000
Mailed bi-monthly to all district officials, all members of Congress, leaders and members



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Conservation
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Communications Continued

- **Forestry Notes**

Approximate distribution of 4,500

Mailed monthly to conservation districts and forestry partners, including federal and state agencies, NGOs forestry businesses and others.

- **Buffer Notes**

Approximate distribution of 8,600 Mailed monthly to conservation districts, all USDA field offices, state and federal agencies, NGOs, businesses, congressional offices and others.

- NOTE: Conservation Briefs was recently eliminated. It will be combined with eNotes and more targeted information will be sent to state and national leaders on an "as needed" basis.
- If you are not receiving these publications and would like to, please visit <http://www.nacdnet.org/>



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Stewardship Program

- For more than 50 years, NACD has sponsored a national program to encourage Americans to focus on stewardship.
- The program relies on locally-led conservation districts sharing and promoting stewardship and conservation activities.
- While the program encourages good stewardship year round, Stewardship Week is officially celebrated from the last Sunday in April to the first Sunday in May.



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Committees

- NACD's national committees provide guidance to the association on key issues. The policy committees are populated by board members and leaders that are chosen by the NACD President.
- Agricultural Lands Resources
- District Operations
- Education and Stewardship
- Forest Resources
- Grazing Lands and Public Lands Resources
- Urban, Community and Coastal Resources
- Water Resources
- Wildlife and Environment
- Legislative
- Great Lakes



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Committees Continued

- **Agricultural Lands Resources:**
 - Primary liaison with government agencies and organizations responsible for the development and implementation of agriculturally related programs affecting the nation's agricultural lands engaged in growing crops and producing livestock.
 - Sample issues: Farm Bill programs, soil surveys and interpretations, conservation tillage, farmland protection and retention, and erosion control
- **District Operations:**
 - Covers current operation issues facing districts.
 - Primary liaison with NRCS and NASCA
 - Sample issues: alternative funding sources; civil rights/equal opportunity; capacity development programs; cooperative and other working agreements among districts, agencies and other partners; district annual reports and plans; district election laws; district financial management and long-range planning; district personnel and their organization structure; district official training and development; and federal grants to districts.



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Committees Continued

- **Education and Stewardship:**
 - Supports education activities of conservation districts and promotes public acceptance of the values or stewardship of soil, water, and related natural resources.
 - Oversees development of Soil and Water Stewardship Week plans and materials.
 - Plans and conducts Inspirational Meeting.
- **Forest Resources:**
 - Focuses on the conservation issues associated with America's public and private woodlands.
 - Maintains working relationships among NACD, conservation districts, the USDA forest service, the Bureau of Land Management, the National Association of State Foresters, the USDA Research Education and Extension Service, professional forestry societies, the forest products industry, and other agencies and organizations that deal with forestry programs, practices and policies.



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Committees Continued

- **Water Resources:**
 - Primary liaison to the water divisions and staffs of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Bureau of Reclamation, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and other federal and state water policy management agencies
 - Involved in a wide range of conservation issues
- **Wildlife and Environment:**
 - Concerned with a wide range of environmental and resource issues as they impact natural resources.
 - Primary liaison to environmental organizations and fish and wildlife agencies of federal and state government.
- **Legislative:**
 - Special committee
 - Responsible for guiding and coordinating the development and implementation of legislative strategies in support of NACD Board of Directors approved policy and program objectives.



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Committees Continued

- **Great Lakes:**
 - Special committee
 - Concerned with a broad range of environmental issues that impact the water quality and quantity of the Great Lakes in the United States and Canada.
 - Primary emphasis on water quality and erosion control programs and the district role in these Basin issues.



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Member Services

- Advocacy
- Testifying and Public Statements before Congress
- Partnership Building
- Regional Planning
- Annual Meeting
- Legislative Conference
- Outreach for Success Workshops
- Speakers Bureau (Biomass)
- Various National Conferences
- Issue Papers
- Media Outreach
- Publications
- Website
- Avectora member data management



Questions?



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Give us a call!

(202) 547 - 6223