



National Association of Conservation Districts



Dick Went

2nd Vice President

Who We Are

- ☞ Started with Conservation Districts
- 1946 NACD was founded BY Conservation Districts
 - Conservation decisions should be made at the local level by local people who have the best understanding of the area's resource needs.



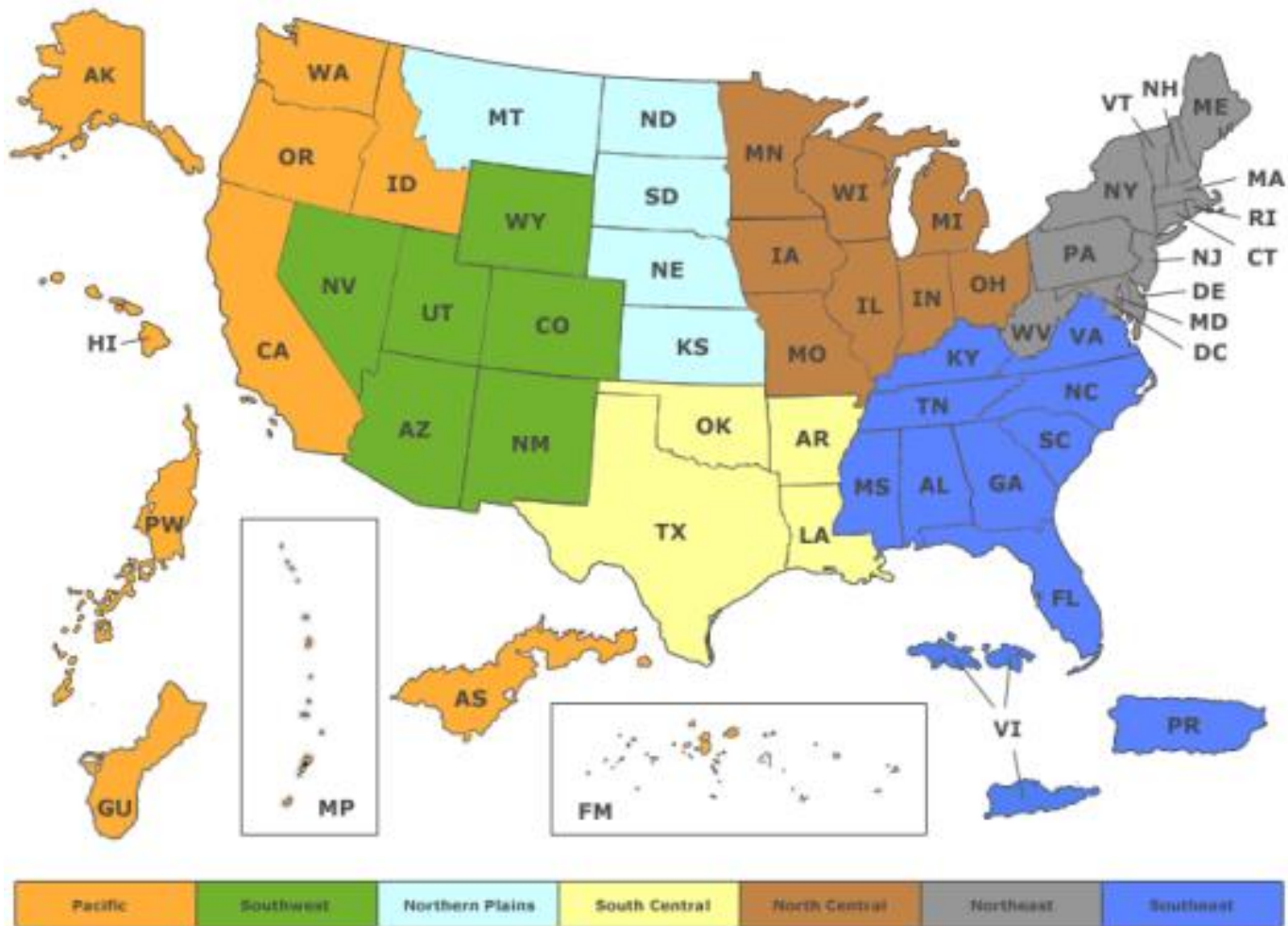
Who We Are

- Guided and governed by:
 - Local leaders from 58 states and U.S. territories
 - Representing our nearly 3,000 conservation districts
 - State Associations
 - More than 17,000 public officials who serve on their boards.
- 501c3 non-profit
- NACD's mission is to serve conservation districts by providing national leadership and a unified voice for natural resource conservation.

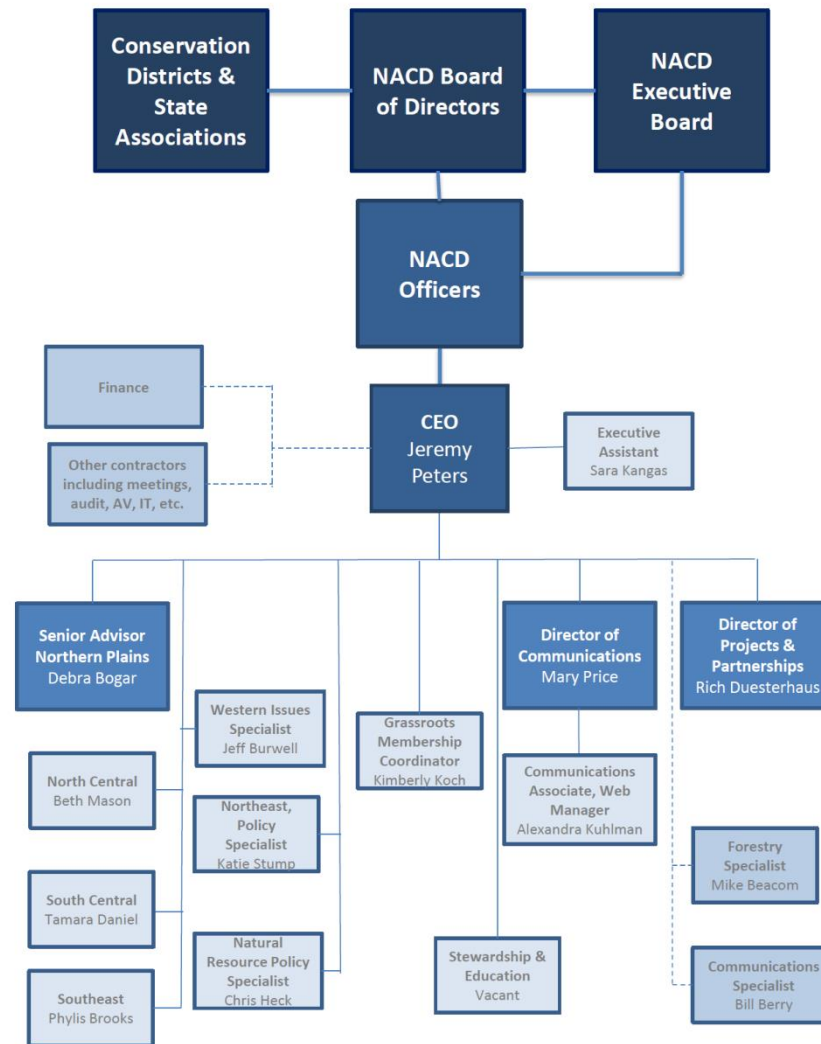
NACD Members

- ∞ All conservation districts – almost 3,000
- ∞ All state associations and U.S. territories - 58
- ∞ Individual memberships – “Friends of NACD”

NACD Regions



NACD Organizational Structure



NACD Board of Directors

- **State and Territories send 1 board member and 1 alternate board member**
- State's decision on how they are chosen
 - Some are appointed by their state association president
 - Some are elected by their state association board
 - Some are assigned as part of their duty as a state officer
- Must meet criteria listed in NACD bylaws
- Alternates are valuable advisors and back-up to board member

NACD Region Chairs

- ✎ Board members in each region elect a region chair from within its members.
- ✎ Serve 1-year term
- ✎ Work with NACD staff to conduct meetings and conference calls
- ✎ Serve as a back-up to the region's Executive Board Member

NACD Executive Board

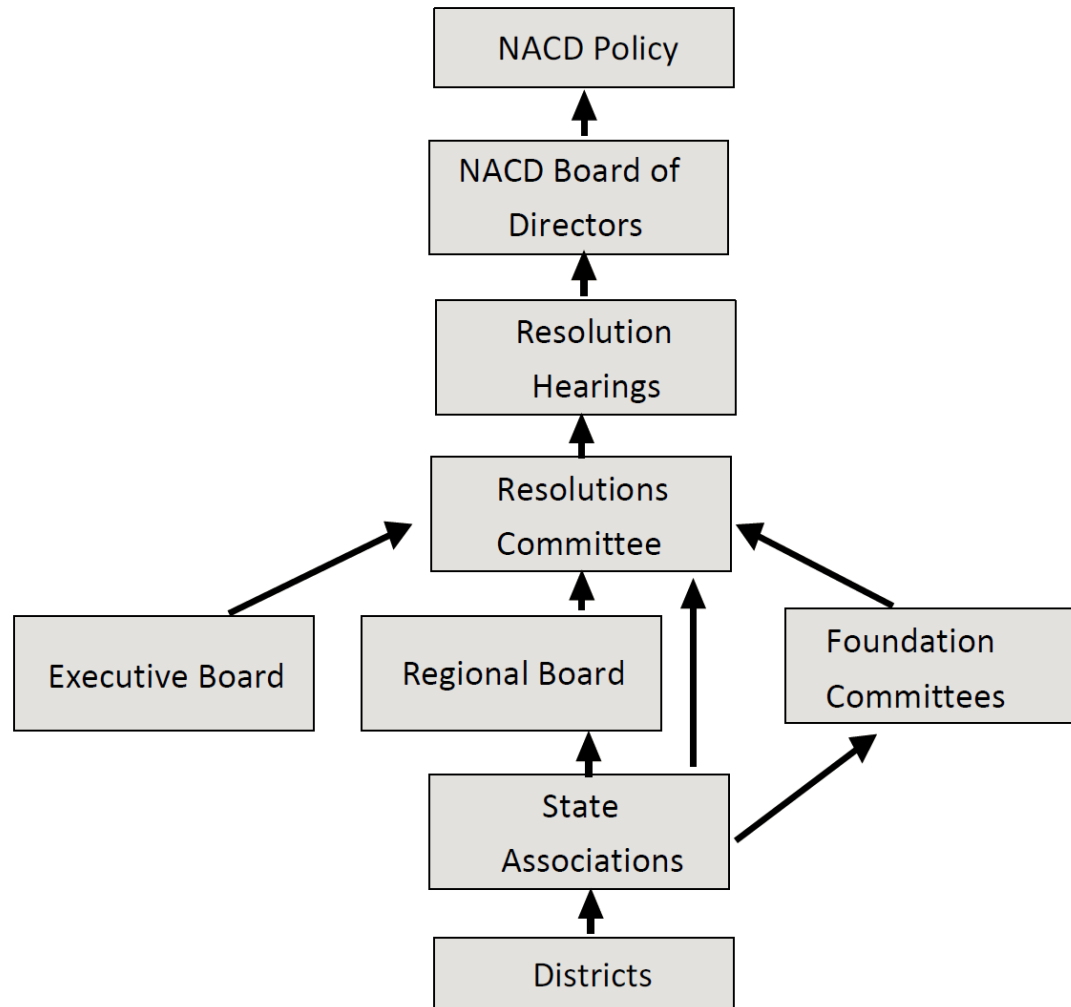
☞ NACD Officers:

- President
 - 1st Vice President/President-Elect
 - 2nd Vice President
 - Secretary-Treasurer
 - Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)
- ☞ 1 member from each geographical region
- ☞ NACD Past President (non-voting)
- ☞ 1 rep from CTIC (non-voting)

NACD Foundation Committees

- ∞ Stewardship and Education Committee*
- ∞ District Operations/Member Services Committee
- ∞ Legislative Committee
- ∞ Communications Committee
- ∞ Natural Resources Policy Committee
 - Resource Policy Groups (RPGs)

NACD Policy Development



What We Do

Conservation Advocacy and Funding

- Builds and maintains strong relationships with Congress and federal agency partners
- Advocate for strong conservation programs, appropriations, and policies
- Promote Conservation Districts

Partnerships

- Core Partners (NRCS, NASCA, NARC&D, NCDEA, NACD)
- Federal, state and local partners and like-minded organizations

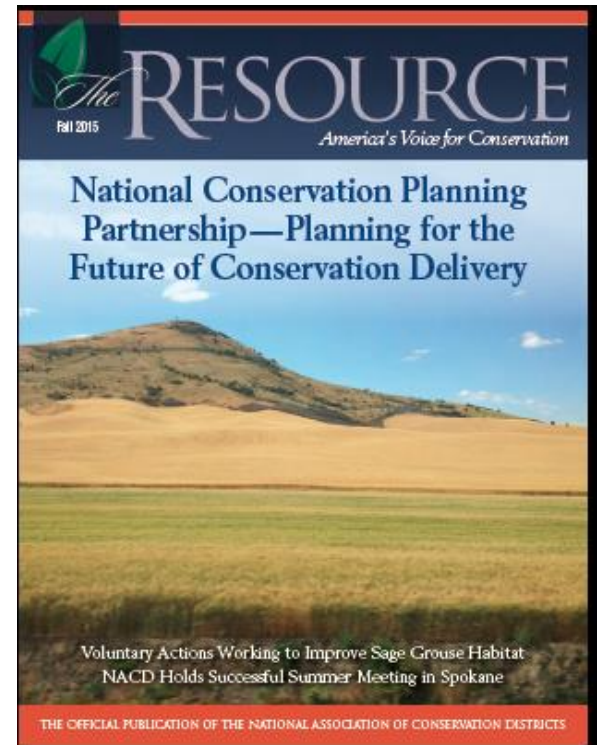
What We Do

∞ Communications

- Reliable source for media, government agencies, the membership and general public

➤ www.nacdnet.org

- NACD publications
 - The Resource
 - eResource
 - Forestry Notes
 - Did You Know?



What We Do

- Social Media – links on www.nacdnet.org
 - Twitter
 - Facebook
 - Flickr
 - Vimeo

Follow Us On:



Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Flickr](#), [Twitter](#) and [Vimeo](#)!
And don't forget to [read the eResource](#).

What We Do

∞ Stewardship and Education Materials

- 25% off previous materials until April 30
- Starting this year: moving to electronic format to download and print

∞ NACD Marketplace

- More than education materials
- Plaques, ribbons, service pins
- Wearables
- Signs



Call to Action...Get Involved!

- ☞ Communicate regularly with NACD
- ☞ Build and maintain relationships with lawmakers
- ☞ Participation in meetings
- ☞ Participate in “Action Alerts”
- ☞ Sign up to receive NACD publications to stay informed
- ☞ Utilize the resources available through NACD
- ☞ Support NACD through Friends of NACD membership
- ☞ Support NACD (your Association) by encouraging your Conservation District to pay Association dues.

District Activities and Funding

∞ Enabling Legislation

- February 1937, President Roosevelt issued model Soil Conservation District Law for consideration by each of the states
- Model enabling act was sent to each of the state governors, suggesting that farmers and ranchers be granted the authority to establish districts specifically for conservation of soil and water resources
- Twenty-two states passed enabling legislation within the same year.

District Activities and Funding

∞ Enabling Legislation

- All states have enacted legislation based on this model
- Provide a mechanism for creating conservation districts to conserve soil, water, and related resources
- Each district is governed by a locally elected or appointed board of officials, usually called directors, commissioners, or supervisors
- Although district boundaries generally coincide with county boundaries, there are districts that cover more than one county and districts that cover only part of one county

District Activities and Funding

∞ Enabling Legislation

- Districts have the power to plan and carry out programs for soil conservation, flood prevention, water management, recreation, and other purposes within their boundaries
- Most districts have the authority to acquire property, enter into contracts and agreements, cooperate with other districts and agencies, conduct surveys, and receive funds.
- Due to the fact that most states modified the model act to some degree, there is a certain amount of diversity in the authorities and administrative mechanisms under which the districts operate

District Activities and Funding

∞ Enabling Legislation

- The model enabling act mainly consists of a number of sections, including:
 - the statement of purpose and policy of the law
 - the organization and authorized activities of the state soil conservation committee
 - the organization of the conservation district
 - the functions and powers of the district
 - the conservation district governance

District Activities and Funding

∞ Enabling Legislation

- Statement of purpose and policy of the law
 - Most enabling laws make a declaration about the condition of lands, consequences and corrective methods, and a declaration of policy concerning conservation of soil and natural resources
 - Fourteen states extend the purpose to “renewable natural resources”
 - Four only have a declaration of policy
 - Five don’t have any statement of purpose or policy

District Activities and Funding

∞ Enabling Legislation

- Establishment of state soil conservation committee
 - Ten states use “State Soil Conservation Committee”
 - Seventeen states including Georgia use “State Soil and Water Conservation Commission”
 - Eight states use “State Conservation Commission”
 - Massachusetts uses “Commission for Conservation of Soil, Water and Related Resources”
- Recommends that the committee consist of a chairman and from 3 to 5 members and certain members that serve in an ex officio capacity
- The total number of members varies from state to state

District Activities and Funding

∞ Enabling Legislation

- Model law provides state committee numerous authorized activities:
 - assisting districts in preparing and carrying out programs
 - facilitating interchange of information between districts
 - reviewing and coordinating programs of districts
 - requesting state appropriations for state agencies and districts
 - receiving and distributing funds to districts
 - enlisting cooperation of state, federal and other agencies
 - making information available to the public
 - providing for an annual audit of the accounts of receipts and disbursements
- A number of states extend their authorized activities beyond these

District Activities and Funding

∞ Enabling Legislation

- Model law identifies the district as Soil Conservation District:
 - Many have change the name to Soil and Water Conservation District, Conservation District, Natural Resources District, or Resource Conservation District
 - Most states define the district as a governmental subdivision of the state or as an agency of the state
 - Provides means for creating new districts, changing the district name, inclusion of territory and discontinuance of a district

District Activities and Funding

∞ Enabling Legislation

- Model law identifies the district functions:
 - conservation
 - flood prevention
 - drainage
 - water supply
 - irrigation
 - sediment prevention
- Most states adopt these functions however, there are a number of unique states with different variations.

District Activities and Funding

∞ Enabling Legislation

- Model law identifies various district powers:

- entering into contracts,
- acquiring and disposing of property,
- providing assistance,
- developing districtwide plans,
- constructing and maintaining structures,
- cooperating with other districts and agencies,
- acquiring and administering projects,
- imposing conditions for furnishing assistance,
- suing and being sued,
- adopting land-use regulations,
- conducting surveys,
- investigation and research,
- receiving money from the state,
- receiving money from the United States,
- receiving income from property by sales

District Activities and Funding

∞ Enabling Legislation

- Various district powers and funding:
 - Five states--Illinois, Maryland, New Mexico, South Carolina, and Virginia--allow the districts to review subdivision or other plans. Virginia is the only state that allows the districts to carry out state and county erosion and sediment control programs, to adopt erosion and sediment control plans, and to have an enforcement provision in erosion and sediment control programs.
 - California and Nebraska are unique in that they allow districts to have further powers such as levying taxes and assessments, borrowing money, issuing bonds, receiving matching funds, and receiving revolving funds.

District Activities and Funding

∞ Enabling Legislation

- District governance:
 - Most states identifying the governing body members as supervisors
 - Also directors or commissioners in some states
- Most states legislation established that the governing body of the district consists of five elected or appointed supervisors
- A few states have seven or up to nine individuals on local boards

District Activities and Funding

∞ Enabling Legislation

- Provides terms for supervisor service
 - Most terms are established at 3 year intervals. Some establish as high as 6 year terms, others as few as 2 years
 - Most states establish terms for supervisor removed for neglect of duty or malfeasance in office, not any other reason. Six states provide that failure to attend meetings in conjunction with malfeasance and/or nonfeasance can be cause for removal.

District Activities and Funding

∞ Enabling Legislation

- Establishes a number of governing body functions for districts:
 - the governing body must organize annually and elect a chairman among its members,
 - the district can call on the state commissioner or attorney general for legal services,
 - the governing body must provide an annual audit
 - the governing body can appoint an advisory committee for coordination with other agencies.
 - a few states provide that the governing body may receive compensation in addition to expenses.

District Activities and Funding

- ✎ Because states adopted both consistent and unique terms in their enabling legislation:
 - Level of consistency in authorized terms and conservation delivery functions
 - Greater variability in activities, programs, and funding sources across the U.S.
 - Some districts are more reliant on traditional funding sources (i.e. federal, state, local agency budgets)
 - Others fund through user fees, levies, or other self-funding mechanisms.

Summary

- ☞ NACD is a national unifying voice for all 3,000 conservation districts across the country.
- ☞ Districts have common missions but also distinct authorities in each state
- ☞ Policy advocacy efforts, communication and outreach all help achieve coordination between national and state associations and local districts

Questions?

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