

AGENDA
Board of Directors Regular Meeting
Tulsa County Conservation District
6660 S. Sheridan Rd. Suite 120
Tulsa, OK 74133
April 13, 2017 - 4:00 PM

1. Meeting called to order
2. Roll Call
3. Consider, Discuss, and Take possible action on the following agenda items:
4. Consideration of Consent Agenda:
 - A. Approval of Minutes from the March 16, 2017 Regular Meeting
 - B. Approval of Financial Statements & District Budget for Period Ending March 2017
 - C. Review of TACF Financials for Periods Ending in March 31, 2017
 - D. Approval of District Reimbursement Claims and Payment of Bills Owed by the District
 - E. Approval of District Employee Timesheet & Leave Records for the Month of March
5. Consideration of and Possible Action on Items to be Removed Consent Agenda
6. Cost-Share Program Year 18
 - A. Discussion and possible changes to Director Check List
 - B. Approval of Cooperator Agreements:
 - a) Ron Clark d) Aaron Kern
 - b) Drew Ary e) Tony Warford
 - c) Bruce Galbierz f) Bill Wiginton
 - C. Approval of Program Year 18 Applications:
 - a) Ron Clark d) Aaron Kern
 - b) Drew Ary e) Tony Warford
 - c) Bruce Galbierz f) Bill Wiginton
7. Discussion and/or Possible Action on the Following District Operation Items:
 - A. Discussion and Acceptance of District Conservationist Agency Report
 - B. Approval of the NRCS Farm Bill Performance Worksheet
 - C. TCCD Monthly Activities and Outreach Report
 - D. OACD State Meeting Update
 - E. Discussion and Possible Approval of 2017 OACD Dues
 - F. Discussion and Possible Approval of 2017 NACD Dues
 - G. Discussion of and Approval of TCCD Board to Submit a Funding Request to TACF for staff support.
 - H. Discussion and Possible Approval of TACF helping fund a new organization called Power of Partial Improvements
 - I. Discussion of TCCD Budget Breakdown
 - J. Discussion of NRCS taking over TCCD Phone line for SIP/EVOIP Migration
 - K. Discussion of the M.e.t's Membership Notification
 - L. Discussion of the NACD Urban Agriculture Conservation Grant
 - M. Discussion of the Joint Plan of Operations
 - N. Discussion of the Long Range Plan
 - O. This Week in Conservation
8. Proposed Executive Session:

Vote in open session to enter Executive Session, as authorized by Title 25 O.S. Section 307 (B) (1). To discuss Gabriel Parker performance review.

If the executive session is approved, designate in open session the person keeping minutes.

 - B. Return to open session and establishment of quorum. Take any action or entertain a motion related to executive session described above.
9. New Business:
10. Public Comments:
11. Adjourn:

Next regularly scheduled meeting is May 11, 2017 at the Tulsa County Conservation District Office:
6660 South Sheridan Rd, Suite 120 Tulsa, OK 74133.



Tulsa County Conservation District
5401 S. Sheridan Road, Suite 201 * Tulsa, Oklahoma 74145-7522
918-280-1595 Fax: 280-1594 E-Mail: Tulsaccd@conservation.ok.gov

STATEMENT OF APPROVAL OF MINUTES

I certify that the minutes from the **Regular Meeting** of the Tulsa County Conservation District Board of Directors held on **April 13, 2017** were approved as written by a vote in the **Regular Meeting** of the Board of Directors held on **May 11, 2017**


Chair, Board of Directors

05/11/17
Date

Attest:



**Minutes
Tulsa County Conservation District
Regular Board Meeting**

Date: April 13, 2017
Time: 4:00 PM

Members Present: Melissa Gray, Chairwoman
Jana Black, Vice Chairwoman
Zach Kilburn, Treasure
John Beasley, Member
Tom Tolbert, Member

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Gabrael Parker, District Secretary
Cleaoon Bradford, Acting District Conservationist – NRCS
Jean Lemmon, Director of Education and Reporting

1. Meeting Called to Order:

Chairwoman, Melissa Gray called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM. She noted this was a regular meeting and is held in compliance with the Open Meeting Act, Title 25 of the Oklahoma Statutes, Section 301 and following, as amended. Notice of this meeting is on file with the county clerk's office. The agenda for this meeting was posted on April 12, 2017 in the front window at 6660 S. Sheridan Rd. Suite 120, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74133.

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- 2. Roll Call**
- 3. Consider, Discuss, and Take possible action on the following agenda items:**
- 4. Consideration of Consent Agenda:**
 - A. Approval of Minutes from the March 16, 2017 Regular Meeting**
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 - C. Review of TACF Financials for Periods Ending in March 31, 2017**
 - D. Approval of District Reimbursement Claims and Payment of Bills Owed by the District**
 - E. Approval of District Employee Timesheet & Leave Records for the Month of March**
 - F. Acceptance of NRCS Farm Bill performance worksheets**

After a brief discussion, John Beasley made a motion to remove Gabrael Parker's travel claim from item 4D of the consent agenda for further discussion, and approve the rest of

the consent agenda minus item 4D. Zach Kilburn 2nd the motion. Nays: None. The motion carries.

5. Consideration of and Possible Action on Items to be Removed Consent Agenda

Gabriel Parker said she noticed her mileage for March had a mistake. She said she noticed that her mileage on 3/30/2017 from Julie Monnot's office was not listed. She said it was not a big deal, but it is missing the eight miles for the return trip. The board said if the eight miles are missing, the record should be corrected to reflect the correct mileage driven. Jana Black made a motion to approve Gabriel Parkers corrected mileage, Tom Tolbert 2nd the motion. Nays: None. The motion carries.

6. Cost-Share Program Year 18

A. Discussion and possible changes to Director Check List

Gabriel Parker said wanted to have a further discussion about line item 8 in the Board Check List, to possibly establish a priority for some of the underserved areas around Tulsa County on a future ranking system. Melissa Gray said in this case we were talking about the ranking not the actual check list. Since we voted on the check list last meeting, and we wanted to have further discussion of the ranking criteria, she did not think we needed to change anything from the check list. Melissa said the criteria for ranking underserved areas was already a section on NRCS's ranking sheet. Gabriel said she thought it had been listed under local issues addressed.

Cleao entered the meeting at 4:05 PM

Cleao said he had not received official word on how to go about establishing where the underserved areas are in Tulsa County, but he spoke to Dennis Ware, DC out of Pawhuska, about it. Dennis said we could use some census data for Tulsa County. Cleao said we cannot just look at a map and say "this is where we think the underserved area is. We would need to have data to fall back on to justify the area of concern. Melissa asked Cleao if that information is something NRCS can put together. Cleao said in a lot of counties, the districts and NRCS have meetings with members of the community, to determine the need and their concerns. Once they have that information, they can build a ranking or priority system around those concerns. Cleao said it is more or less up to the district board on setting those priorities for the local funding. He said you want to make sure the money is going to people that are interested in putting conservation practices on the ground. We don't want to say that we think this area is underserved, and then find out that the community is not interested. We want to make sure we are getting to the places that want it and need it, and not just where we think it is. Melissa said before we can even start to come up with a priority ranking, we need to have outreach meetings in those areas to find out if there is an interest, and if so, where is the greatest concern. Jana Black asked if there was another place we can get population data besides the census data? Tom Tolbert said the City of Broken Arrow collects those kinds of statistics based on what we are looking for, that we can request. Tom asked if we were planning on doing this on a conservation basis or as an economic need for the people. Melissa said the idea is, if we

had money that we can provide to people, we are going to provide it the areas where it is going to have the most impact. She said people in underserved areas do not typically have a lot of money to spend on conservation. Which means conservation is lower on their priority lists. With that being said, we would rank them a little higher than someone that comes from a more affluent area. If there is no need, there is no need. There is not a lot we can do if there is no need or interest in that area. Jean Lemmon asked what kind of practices we would offer based on our ranking priorities. Melissa said, all of the practices that we currently have, or the ones we approve at the start of the cost-share year. Jean said she could see a huge demand for the high tunnel systems in North Tulsa. There is a movement in that area because of it being a food desert. She said she could connect us to people in that area that would definitely be interested in getting a high tunnel system. Cleaon said he did not think the high tunnel was an approved practice for State Cost-share. Gabrielael said it is not, but the request to have it added to the approved list would have to come from the board to OCC. Melissa said it sounds like we need to make sure we add the high tunnel systems to our list of cost share approved practices, and asked Gabrielael if she can work on that in the coming weeks. Gabrielael said she can work on that in the next month or so. Jean said if the application period ends May 31, 2017, it doesn't leave a lot of time to get that approved. Melissa said we could get it done for next year. Gabrielael said we may be able to add it to this year's list of practices, since the allocation period does not end until August 31st. this would still be subject to available funding and getting more applications in by then. Melissa said the next thing we need to work on is the priority ranking for low income areas in Tulsa County. She said she could get a hold of INCOG, to see if they could provide some of that data for us. Jean said we need to contact Nathan Picard, Katie Plohocky, and the Eastern Oklahoma Food Bank. They are working with the Health Department to have some demonstration areas for people who may be interested in growing their own food. They might be able to help get the word out, as well as help identify some of these underserved areas. Cleaon asked if were planning on using the new criteria for this year's applications. Melissa said she didn't think we could. Cleaon then asked if we thought we would end up allocating all of the funds we have available. Gabrielael said it looks like we will not have a problem spending all of the available funds. Cleaon said he did not think we would have a problem promoting this, as well as getting it approved by OCC. He said we just need to provide the necessary documentation to justify why we think North Tulsa is a food desert. Jean agreed with Cleaon, and said it would be hard to find anyone who did not agree. The board directed staff to work on drafting a letter to OCC to add to the high tunnel system to the approved list of conservation practices. No further action needed to be taken at this time.

B. Approval of Cooperator Agreements:

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| a) Ron Clark | d) Aaron Kern |
| b) Drew Ary | e) Tony Warford |
| c) Bruce Galbierz | f) Bill Wiginton |

After a brief discussion, John Beasley made a motion to approve Ron Clark, Aaron Kern, Drew Ary, Tony Warford, Bruce Galbierz, and Bill Wiginton's Cooperator Agreements. Jana Black 2nd the motion. Nays: None. The motion carries.

C. Approval of Program Year 18 Applications:

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| a) Ron Clark | d) Aaron Kern |
| b) Drew Ary | e) Tony Warford |
| c) Bruce Galbierz | f) Bill Wiginton |

After a brief discussion, Zach Kilburn made a motion to approve the Cost Share Program Year 18 applications for Ron Clark, Aaron Kern, Drew Ary, Tony Warford, Bruce Galbierz, and Bill Wiginton. Jana Black 2nd the motion. Nays: None. The motion carries.

7. Discussion and/or Possible Action on the Following District Operation Items:

A. Discussion and Acceptance of District Conservationist Agency Report

Cleaoon Bradford said there are 7 High Tunnel Systems in Tulsa County that they will have contacts on. Two of which are considered "Socially Disadvantaged". He was not sure if Tulsa had any CSP contracts that need to be renewed this year, but if we did, the deadline to renew a CSP contract is May 5, 2017. Also, the deadline to apply for the Monarch Butterfly Initiative, is April 21, 2017. Jana Black made a motion to accept the District Conservationist's Agency Report. John Beasley 2nd the motion. Nays: None. The motion carries.

B. Approval of the NRCS Farm Bill Performance Worksheet

After a brief discussion, Jana Black made a motion to approve the NRCS Farm Bill Performance Worksheet. John Beasley 2nd the motion. Nays: None. The motion carries.

C. TCCD Monthly Outreach Report

Gabriel Parker forgot to add an agenda item for Crow Creek Update with Jean Lemmon, so she said Jean could give the update in the outreach report. Jean said that the Crow Creek Community had been approached by a landowner about a project that is going in at the corner of 81st and highway 75. The landowner said if we wanted to go out to the property and dig up some plants and other grasses before the project gets underway, we may go out and take our pick. She said Jacob Hagen with the City of Tulsa and I, are planning an event on Friday April 28th at 1 PM. She said we plan on meeting at the meadow, and take a group out there to dig up some plants. Hopefully, we can take them out there, dig up some plants, and come back to the meadow and plant them the very same afternoon. In addition to that, they found out from the Monarch Watch Initiative out of Kansas, that our application for receiving free Butterfly Milkweed plants was approved. We were approved to receive about 50-80 Butterfly Milkweed plants from Monarch Watch. We just have to pay the shipping costs. She the City of Tulsa will pick up the cost of that. She said she hoped to have those here by April 28th to be able to plant them on the same day. If not, they will schedule another day. Jean said we did have a Landscape Working Group meeting. We talked a lot about signage. Mostly of what we want to do with the signs that will go up in the meadow. We talked about ways in which we could improve the path. One idea was maybe having one of the Boy/Eagle Scout troops create a scout project to get one of their badges. Since the path is already laid out, all they would need to do is raise the funds and find the volunteers to help fix the path. Jean mentioned that Gabriel Parker had scheduled a meeting with Ray Volentine from

Advance Sod Sales tomorrow morning. He is going to come out and look at the lots to give us an estimate of how much it may cost to get the Buffalo sod installed. She said this is where we stand at the moment. Jana asked what the budget looked like for the sod. Jean said as of right now, we have \$1000.00 dollars from Friends of Blue Thumb, set aside specifically for the sod. Zach Kilburn asked Jean for a brief synopsis of the potential path project, so he could send to his Eagle Scout contact. Jean said the path has been laid, but when the city laid it out, they used crushed limestone. So now it is very uneven, because as people have worked on the lot, they drove vehicles over it and moved the limestone out of place. We originally wanted to put crushed granite down, but that was a little too expensive for our budget. We would need a group of volunteers to go in and put crushed granite on the existing path, and smooth it out. The lime is kind of sticky and muddy, and it is not exactly what we were hoping for. Jean said she thought it would be a reasonable eagle project.

Gabriel thanked Jean for the Crow Creek update. Jean said she didn't want to steal Gabriel's thunder, but she wanted to mention the TPS Earth Day Event on the 21st. She said we were working on some activities for that event. She also said she will be out at the Earth Day Festival at Johnson Park on the 22nd. She will be there with Cheryl Cheadle. One of us will be doing the Enviroscape and the other one will be doing the fish prints.

Gabriel said that she just kind of walked around the Tulsa Garden Spring Fest. Did not stay for very long. It was a pretty neat little festival. She said by the time she got there, most vendors were all out of milkweed. Most of them said they would have more in the morning, but she would have to get there pretty early. She said she saw Ric Kotarski there and one of the retired teachers from Lee Elementary. She plans on being at the M.e.t's Enviro Expo on April 19th, and of course participating in the TPS event on the 21st. On the 26th, OCC is hosting the urban version of the Campaign for Conservation at the Capital. She said OCC already hosted one for rural legislatures at the end of March, and decided to host a second one later just the urban legislatures. That only includes Tulsa and Oklahoma Counties. She said she thought it wouldn't look right if I did not attend for Tulsa County. John Beasley asked if she wanted or planned on going. Gabriel said she would attend the event. Jean said she would offer to give Gabriel a ride, but she will be in Dallas for an EPA conference that week and won't be able to attend. Melissa asked what time the event starts, and Gabriel said 9AM. She said if she had have a meeting that morning and could not reschedule it, or else she would go. Gabriel said she could email some of the surrounding counties to see if they were going, and maybe see if she could hitch a ride. If not, she would just drive down regardless of mileage. Gabriel said we are still going to have the Creek Clean-up at Dirty Butter Creek in North Tulsa. Jean pointed out that the report said the clean-up was at Butter Creek and not Dirty Butter. Gabriel said she would correct that. Gabriel said that the Eventbrite website is up and running, but she has not gotten any registration notifications. Jean said Julie from the City is waiting on publication materials in order to advertise the event. Melissa asked if we had a meeting location established. Gabriel said we are going to meet at Edu Care. Gabriel asked if anyone knew whether or not the City of Tulsa's Focus on the Four will be at the Tulsa Driller's Go Green night on the 27th. Melissa said they will be there for

Drinking Water Week, but she was not sure about Focus on the Four group. Melissa said to contact Lauren Colbert to see if they will be there.

Jean Lemmon exited the meeting at 5:06PM

Gabriel said she would email Lauren to see if the City of Tulsa's Recycling and Refuge group will be there. If they are, maybe she can set us up with a booth. No further action needed to be taken at this time.

Cleon Bradford asked the board if there was anything else we needed him for, and John Beasley said not that he could see, unless he wanted to stay for the Executive Session. John said we could move that up if he had time constraints.

The board decided to take a ten minute break at 5:10 PM

Board resumed the meeting at 5:20 PM

The Board decided to move agenda item 8 up due to time constraints.

8. Proposed Executive Session:

Vote in open session to enter Executive Session, as authorized by Title 25 O.S. Section 307 (B) (1). To discuss Gabriel Parker performance review. If the executive session is approved, designate in open session the person keeping minutes.

John Beasley made a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss Gabriel Parker's Performance Review, with all board members, and Cleon Bradford staying, and Zach Kilburn taking the minutes. Jana Black 2nd the motion. Nays: None. The motion carries. Entered into Executive Session at 5:23 PM

Cleon Bradford exited the meeting at 5:57 PM

B. Return to open session and establishment of quorum. Take any action or entertain a motion related to executive session described above.

Exited Executive Session at 6:17 PM

The Board said they would like to give Gabriel Parker a \$0.50 raise starting at the beginning of FY 2018, which starts on July 1, 2017. Jana Black made a motion to give Gabriel Parker a raise starting at the beginning of FY 2018, which starts on July 1, 2017. John Beasley 2nd the motion. Nays: None. The motion carries.

D. OACD State Meeting Update

John Beasley said we got down there on Monday, and Mike Brown the President of the National Association of Conservation Districts was the first guest speaker. He talked a lot about the history of the districts, and why they matter. John said what he took away from

the NACD President, was his emphasis on district employees. He said if you only have one employee, that one employee should be the District Manager. Which John said we will continue to talk about in the future. Which John said we will continue to talk about this well into the future. John said he was pretty confident that nothing will ever come from it, because OCC is not looking to spend any more money on giving people new titles or raises. These breakout sessions went into what you need to know about what you need to do as a district director. Again, Mike Brown was talking about policies and procedures we should have. We have two pages dedicated to dress code. Mike Brown asked the room by a show of hands, who had these in place? John said he and maybe two other people raised their hands. John said in many of these rural districts, they have an understanding of policies, but they do not have written policies. John said we were good since we already have one in place. He said he did not know if he got any additional information out of that one. He thought the Legislative Reception went really well. He really enjoyed that. We got to speak to a few of Tulsa representatives. He said Michael Patton was there. He certainly promoted the conservation district. They gave away many awards. Jana Black then asked John if he thought it was it worth the money. John said absolutely not, which gets to the heart of the next issue. We didn't pay for lunches or the banquets. It was completely cost prohibited to us because we were unable to justify spending that kind of money. They flipped the schedule during the lunch meeting. So when Gabrial and I returned from lunch, they were already half way through the next breakout meeting. The session that Jean and I returned to, was them talking badly about the districts, and specifically Tulsa County. Things like we don't pay our dues and the residents of Tulsa County are not eligible to win awards, like educator of the year, and producer of the year and other things of that nature. John said OACD is always looking for ideas on how to get more people involved in the speech contests, (John said when was the last time anyone from Tulsa entered one of those contests anyway), but then turn around and say, if districts do not pay their dues, that makes their residents ineligible. Melissa Gray asked John if there was an opportunity for a rebuttal. John said no, but others had. Their response was them trying to say we are trying, but everyone is a victim of the state's budget. John said the districts are a victim of the state budget too, but you are asking us for money that you know we don't have. The question still remains. What does OACD do for us? What is our money worth? He pointed out that we still had to pay to go to the meeting, the lunches and banquets, and I am not sure I got much out of it. Some of the speakers talked about the Long Range Plans, and other agreements, that many of the districts do not have. We already have those things in place. Gabrial said every district is required to have one. John said yes, but they were not like ours. They were severely lacking in content. The things they were talking about, are things that we are already doing and don't need help with. Some of the sessions, were okay. We went to the Blue Thumb session, which was good. There was another one by the Nature Conservancy, in they which talked about one of their new properties. But didn't really apply to us. Gabrial mentioned going to the Monarch Butterfly session, which she thought was interesting. They talked about the I-35 Corridor project they were doing. John said it was interesting and informative, but I don't think it was worth it. Jana asked about the lobbying that OACD said they did for us. John again asked what they lobby for. The state has no money, so you can lobby all day long, but it's simply not there. Even the

rainy day fund is dry. Jana asked if they lobby for us and the money goes through them, and then distributed to the districts. John said that is not how it works. Melissa said, it goes through the commission. Gabriela said, OACD needs the districts to pay their dues, in order to stay afloat. OCC is by law, not allowed to lobby for anything. So that is why OACD exists. OCC gives money to the districts, and then the districts give OACD money in the form of dues, and that is how they exist. Gabriela said her issue with these types of meetings, is the fact that they give all these cash awards, like they did for Caney Valley at the area meeting. They received \$2000 dollars for some reason or another. She said she asked herself, is that what our \$450 in dues go towards? If that is the case, there is no way she can justify paying dues, only for it to be given away to another district. John said they also give some scholarships to district employees or their children that our dues help pay for. There are a variety of things that OACD gives the money to, that don't translate into direct help to the district. Gabriela said it was good to talk to other district staff that she may otherwise not talk to. For that reason alone, it was not worth paying \$300 to do so. She could call or email other districts, and it would be cheaper. John said that was really all he needed to say about the meeting and asked Gabriela if she had anything else to add. He did mention one great thing about the whole thing, and that was that we were able to ride down with Jean Lemmon, which avoided extra costs. No Further action needed to be taken at this time.

Zach Kilburn exited the meeting at 6:28 PM

Gabriel apologized for the length of the meeting.

E. Discussion and Possible Approval of 2017 OACD Dues

Gabriel Parker said, given the current financial situation we are in, and due to the end of the fiscal year, she could not justify sending the \$450 dues to OACD. We just do not have the funds to spare. John Beasley made a motion to approve the 2017 OACD Dues. Jana Black 2nd the motion. Nays: Melissa Gray, Jana Black, Zach Kilburn, John Beasley, Tom Tolbert. The motion does not pass.

F. Discussion and Possible Approval of 2017 NACD Dues

As with the previous agenda item, Gabriela again said, we do not have the funds to spare for the NACD dues either. John Beasley made a motion to approve the 2017 NACD Dues. Jana Black 2nd the motion. Nays: Melissa Gray, Jana Black, Zach Kilburn, John Beasley, Tom Tolbert. The motion does not pass.

G. Discussion of and Approval of TCCD Board to Submit a Funding Request to TACF for staff support.

After a brief discussion, John Beasley made a motion to approve the TCCD Board's submission of a funding request to TACF for staff support. Jana Black 2nd the motion. Nays: None. The motion carries.

H. Discussion and Possible Approval of TACF helping fund a new organization called Power of Partial Improvements

John said there have been some questions about funding request policy and procedures. Gabrielael and I have looked through By-Laws and have yet to find a definitive answer. John said this was a form that was put into place to make the request more official. Just because of the way this has been done in the past, and not knowing the exact policy, he would like to get approval from this board to fund some materials for this organization. Gabrielael said she did not think it would hurt to have the TCCD board approve the request in advance of the TACF board meeting next month. John said some of the things on Brian's list we would not be able to fund, but thought we could fund about \$750 of the requested funds. After that brief discussion, Jana Black made a motion to approve TACF assistance in funding Power of Partial Improvements up to \$750.00. Tom Tolbert 2nd the motion. Nays: None. The motion carries.

I. Discussion of TCCD Budget Breakdown

Gabriael Parker said since we are a little short on time, this was just to show where some of our money goes, but do not receive reimbursement for. We can discuss this at a later meeting, but she wanted to provide the information she had found. No Further action needed to be taken at this time.

J. Discussion of NRCS taking over TCCD Phone line for SIP/EVOIP Migration

Gabriael Parker said that this was just an FYI. We are going to move to completely different phone system. That new system means that we will have to merge the TCCD phone line with NRCS. Gabrielael said NRCS asked us if we could give them complete control over the TCCD line, and they would end up paying for just the number. Since we were planning on getting rid of the phone line in August, she was more than happy to relinquish control of the number. The main NRCS number will remain 918-280-1596, but everyone in the office will have a new number. If someone wants to call me directly they would have to dial my new number, and if they call the main number, they will have to use the last four numbers of my new number. Either way, we will not have to pay for the phone by August. We will still have the internet, but it will save about \$40-\$50. No further action needed to be taken at this time.

K. Discussion of the M.e.t's Membership Notification

Gabriael Parker said that we should eventually become a member, but right now, we do not have any money to spare. She did say that we may be able to revisit this and other memberships after the start of FY 2018. No further action needed to be taken at this time.

L. Discussion of the NACD Urban Agriculture Conservation Grant

Melissa Gray said this is the grant that we applied for with Up With Trees. The deadline is May 15, 2017. Jana said she wanted to make sure we had enough time to apply for it again. She also said NACD emailed a list of common mistakes that would lead to a proposal rejection. Jana said when we apply for the grant again, we need to make sure we

address all of the issues outlined in the list sent out. Jana said she was trying to get a representative from Up With Trees here today, but did not receive a response. We need to move on it so we have enough time. Gabriel said she did email Julie with Up With Trees but got an out of the office message. She also emailed Julie Etchison, who was supposed to be helping in the other Julie's absence, but have not heard back from her. John said we will see them at the Enviro Expo on the 19th. Melissa asked if Gabriel had emailed Nathan Picard, and she said she had not but will in the morning. One of the problems we ran into last year, was that Up With Trees was taking a lot of responsibility for the implementation and funds distribution. NACD couldn't distinguish between who was applying for the grant. So we need to avoid this if we are going to partner with them again. Jana said we will have to rework and tweak the grant from last year to show that the district is the key player. Gabriel said she would email Julie and Nathan tomorrow to see if they would be interested in partnering with us again. No further action needed to be taken at this time.

M. Discussion of the Joint Plan of Operations

John Beasley said he wanted to have this on the agenda just so the newer board members can take a look at them, and ask any questions. Gabriel Parker said the Joint Plan is something we do every year, and will probably have the new 2017-2018 Joint Plan of Operations on the August agenda. No further action needed to be taken at this time.

N. Discussion of the Long Range Plan

John Beasley said like the previous agenda item, this was on the agenda for the newer members to take a look at. John said he put this plan together in 2014 with regards to the Community Outreach Coordinator position we no longer have. Gabriel parker said if it were not for John, the plan would not have gotten done due to all the things that were going on that year. She said we will have to start working on another Long Range Plan next year. They are every five years. No further action needed to be taken at this time.

O. This Week in Conservation

Gabriel said this was just an FYI. No further action needed to be taken at this time.

9. New Business:

10. Public Comments:

None

11. Adjourn:

Meeting adjourned at 6:14 PM

Next regularly scheduled meeting is May 11, 2017 at the Tulsa County Conservation District Office: 6660 South Sheridan Rd, Suite 120 Tulsa, OK 74133.

4:02 PM
04/03/17
Accrual Basis

Tulsa County Conservation District
Profit & Loss
March 2017

	<u>Mar 17</u>
Income	
Administrative Income	0.06
OCC Reimbursements	<u>2,459.69</u>
Total Income	2,459.75
Expense	
Administrative Expense	169.61
Employee Benefits	206.19
Payroll	2,409.14
Payroll Tax	740.44
Telephone and Internet	246.56
Travel	<u>81.50</u>
Total Expense	<u>3,853.44</u>
Net Income	<u><u>-1,393.69</u></u>

4:04 PM

04/03/17

Accrual Basis

Tulsa County Conservastion District

Profit & Loss Detail

March 2017

Type	Date	Num	Name	Memo	Clr	Split	Amount	Balance
Income								
Administrative Income								
Deposit	3/31/2017		Arvest	Interest Pay...		Arvest Checki...	0.06	0.06
Total Administrative Income							0.06	0.06
OCC Reimbursements								
Deposit	3/29/2017		OCC	April 2017 Sa...		Arvest Checki...	2,001.43	2,001.43
Deposit	3/31/2017		OCC	February 201...		Arvest Checki...	458.26	2,459.69
Total OCC Reimbursements							2,459.69	2,459.69
Total Income							2,459.75	2,459.75
Expense								
Administrative Expense								
Check	3/9/2017		Home Depot	Purchase of ...		Arvest Checki...	8.98	8.98
Check	3/10/2017	8515	Fuzzell's Copier	Quarter Copl...		Arvest Checki...	139.83	148.81
Check	3/21/2017		OK Secretary of State	Notary Rene...		Arvest Checki...	20.80	169.61
Total Administrative Expense							169.61	169.61
Employee Benefits								
Check	3/10/2017	8519	OCC	March 2017 ...		Arvest Checki...	206.19	206.19
Total Employee Benefits							206.19	206.19
Payroll								
Check	3/2/2017	8518	Gabriel S Parker	February 16-...		Arvest Checki...	803.23	803.23
Check	3/17/2017	8520	Gabriel S Parker	March 1-15th...		Arvest Checki...	802.68	1,605.91
Check	3/31/2017	8529	Gabriel S Parker	March 16-31...		Arvest Checki...	803.23	2,409.14
Total Payroll							2,409.14	2,409.14
Payroll Tax								
Check	3/10/2017		IRS	941 Tax Pay...		Arvest Checki...	650.44	650.44
Check	3/16/2017		Oklahoma Tax Com...	February 201...		Arvest Checki...	90.00	740.44
Total Payroll Tax							740.44	740.44
Telephone and Internet								
Check	3/1/2017		COX Communicatio...	February 201...		Arvest Checki...	123.28	123.28
Check	3/29/2017		COX Communicatio...	March 2017 ...		Arvest Checki...	123.28	246.56
Total Telephone and Internet							246.56	246.56
Travel								
Check	3/29/2017	8528	Gabriel S Parker	February 201...		Arvest Checki...	81.50	81.50
Total Travel							81.50	81.50
Total Expense							3,853.44	3,853.44
Net Income							-1,393.69	-1,393.69

4:03 PM
04/03/17
Accrual Basis

Tulsa County Conservation District
Profit & Loss
July 2016 through March 2017

	<u>Jul '16 - Mar 17</u>
Income	
Administrative Income	5,201.03
Cost-Share Reimbursements	2,429.39
OCC Reimbursements	<u>23,609.47</u>
Total Income	31,239.89
Expense	
Administrative Expense	1,331.29
Cost-Share Payments	4,445.63
Employee Benefits	1,496.43
Office Supplies	45.56
Outreach Programs	72.92
Payroll	15,008.30
Payroll Tax	6,639.59
Postage	47.00
Professional Fees	545.00
Telephone and Internet	1,108.53
Travel	<u>819.19</u>
Total Expense	<u>31,559.44</u>
Net Income	<u><u>-319.55</u></u>



P O BOX 1670
LOWELL AR 72745

Statement Ending 03/31/2017

TULSA COUNTY CONSERVATION

Page 1 of 4

Customer Number:

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

TULSA COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
6660 S SHERIDAN RD STE 120
TULSA OK 74133-1768

Managing Your Accounts



24-HOUR
ACCOUNT INFO (800) 601-8655
LINE



CUSTOMER
SERVICE (866) 952-9523



MAILING
ADDRESS PO BOX 799
LOWELL AR 72745



WEBSITE www.arvest.com

Combined Statement Change Effective February 1, 2017

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Summary of Accounts

Account Type	Account Number	Ending Balance
NON-PROFIT INTEREST CHECKING		\$1,817.98
Total Current Value		\$1,817.98

NON-PROFIT INTEREST CHECKING

Account Summary

Date	Description	Amount
03/01/2017	Beginning Balance	\$3,211.67
	3 Credit(s) This Period	\$2,459.75
	12 Debit(s) This Period	\$3,853.44
03/31/2017	Ending Balance	\$1,817.98

Interest Summary

Description	Amount
Annual Percentage Yield Earned	0.00%
Interest Days	0
Interest Earned	\$0.00
Interest Paid This Period	\$0.06
Interest Paid Year-to-Date	\$0.23
Interest Withheld Year-to-Date	\$0.00

DORMANCY: A MONTHLY FEE WILL BEGIN IF NO ACTIVITY FOR 12 MONTHS.

Electronic Credits

Date	Description	Amount
03/29/2017	VENDOR PAYMENTS MISC REIMB TULSA COUNTY CONSERVAT	\$2,001.43
03/31/2017	VENDOR PAYMENTS MISC REIMB TULSA COUNTY CONSERVAT	\$458.26

Other Credits

Date	Description	Amount
03/31/2017	INTEREST PMT	\$0.06

Electronic Debits

Date	Description	Amount
03/01/2017	COX COMM TUL BANK DRAFT	-\$123.28

**Statement Ending 03/31/2017**

TULSA COUNTY CONSERVATION

Page 3 of 4

Customer Number: .

NON-PROFIT INTEREST CHECKING

(continued)

Electronic Debits (continued)

Date	Description	Amount
	<i>Tulsa County Conservat</i>	
03/09/2017	030011 POS PIN PUR FROM CHK THE HOME DEPOT #3913 TULSA, OK 5200	-\$8.98
03/10/2017	IRS USATAXPYMT TULSA COUNTY CONSERVAT	-\$650.44
03/16/2017	TAX PAYMENTS OK TAX PMT	-\$90.00
03/21/2017	422342 POS PUR FROM CHK SECRETARY OF STATE OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 9399	-\$20.80
03/29/2017	COX COMM TUL BANK DRAFT <i>Tulsa County Conservat</i>	-\$123.28

Checks Cleared

Check Nbr	Date	Amount	Check Nbr	Date	Amount	Check Nbr	Date	Amount
8515	03/10/2017	\$139.83	8519	03/10/2017	\$206.19	8528*	03/29/2017	\$81.50
8518*	03/02/2017	\$803.23	8520	03/17/2017	\$802.68	8529	03/31/2017	\$803.23

* Indicates skipped check number

Daily Balances

Date	Amount	Date	Amount	Date	Amount
02/28/2017	\$3,211.67	03/10/2017	\$1,279.72	03/29/2017	\$2,162.89
03/01/2017	\$3,088.39	03/16/2017	\$1,189.72	03/31/2017	\$1,817.98
03/02/2017	\$2,285.16	03/17/2017	\$387.04		
03/09/2017	\$2,276.18	03/21/2017	\$366.24		



P O BOX 1670
LOWELL AR 72745

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

TULSA COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
6660 S SHERIDAN RD STE 120
TULSA OK 74133-1768

Statement Ending 03/31/2017

TULSA COUNTY CONSERVATION

Page 1 of 2

Customer Number:

Managing Your Accounts



24-HOUR
ACCOUNT INFO (800) 601-8655
LINE



CUSTOMER
SERVICE (866) 952-9523



MAILING
ADDRESS PO BOX 799
LOWELL AR 72745



WEBSITE www.arvest.com

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Summary of Accounts

Account Type	Account Number	Ending Balance
NON-PROFIT INTEREST CHECKING		\$83.10
Total Current Value		\$83.10

NON-PROFIT INTEREST CHECKING

Account Summary

Date	Description	Amount
03/01/2017	Beginning Balance	\$83.10
	0 Credit(s) This Period	\$0.00
	0 Debit(s) This Period	\$0.00
03/31/2017	Ending Balance	\$83.10

DORMANCY: A MONTHLY FEE WILL BEGIN IF NO ACTIVITY FOR 12 MONTHS.

Daily Balances

Date	Amount
02/28/2017	\$83.10



P O BOX 1670
LOWELL AR 72745

Statement Ending 03/31/2017

TULSA AREA CONSERVATION

Page 1 of 4

Customer Number:

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

TULSA AREA CONSERVATION FOUNDATION
6660 S SHERIDAN RD STE 120
TULSA OK 74133-1768

Managing Your Accounts

	24-HOUR ACCOUNT INFO (800) 601-8655 LINE
	CUSTOMER SERVICE (866) 952-9523
	MAILING ADDRESS PO BOX 799 LOWELL AR 72745
	WEBSITE www.arvest.com

Combined Statement Change Effective February 1, 2017

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Summary of Accounts

Account Type	Account Number	Ending Balance
NON-PROFIT INTEREST CHECKING		\$6,790.52
Total Current Value		\$6,790.52

NON-PROFIT INTEREST CHECKING

Account Summary

Date	Description	Amount
03/01/2017	Beginning Balance	\$7,042.28
	1 Credit(s) This Period	\$0.32
	2 Debit(s) This Period	\$252.08
03/31/2017	Ending Balance	\$6,790.52

Interest Summary

Description	Amount
Annual Percentage Yield Earned	0.00%
Interest Days	0
Interest Earned	\$0.00
Interest Paid This Period	\$0.32
Interest Paid Year-to-Date	\$0.94
Interest Withheld Year-to-Date	\$0.00

DORMANCY: A MONTHLY FEE WILL BEGIN IF NO ACTIVITY FOR 12 MONTHS.

Other Credits

Date	Description	Amount
03/31/2017	INTEREST PMT	\$0.32

Electronic Debits

Date	Description	Amount
03/02/2017	GO DADDY WEB ORDER Secretary	-\$60.32
03/20/2017	GO DADDY WEB ORDER Secretary	-\$191.76



Statement Ending 03/31/2017

TULSA AREA CONSERVATION

Page 3 of 4

Customer Number: XXXXXXXXX7192

NON-PROFIT INTEREST CHECKING

Daily Balances

<u>Date</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Amount</u>
02/28/2017	\$7,042.28	03/20/2017	\$6,790.20
03/02/2017	\$6,981.96	03/31/2017	\$6,790.52



P O BOX 1670
LOWELL AR 72745

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

TULSA AREA CONSERVATION FOUNDATION
6660 S SHERIDAN RD STE 120
TULSA OK 74133-1768

Statement Ending 03/31/2017

TULSA AREA CONSERVATION

Page 1 of 2

Customer Number:

Managing Your Accounts



24-HOUR
ACCOUNT INFO (800) 601-8655
LINE



CUSTOMER
SERVICE (866) 952-9523



MAILING
ADDRESS PO BOX 799
LOWELL AR 72745



WEBSITE www.arvest.com

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Summary of Accounts

Account Type	Account Number	Ending Balance
BUSINESS MONEY MARKET		\$15,577.11
Total Current Value		\$15,577.11

BUSINESS MONEY MARKET

Account Summary

Date	Description	Amount
03/01/2017	Beginning Balance	\$15,575.72
	1 Credit(s) This Period	\$1.39
	0 Debit(s) This Period	\$0.00
03/31/2017	Ending Balance	\$15,577.11

Interest Summary

Description	Amount
Annual Percentage Yield Earned	0.00%
Interest Days	0
Interest Earned	\$0.00
Interest Paid This Period	\$1.39
Interest Paid Year-to-Date	\$3.90
Interest Withheld Year-to-Date	\$0.00

DORMANCY: A MONTHLY FEE WILL BEGIN IF NO ACTIVITY FOR 24 MONTHS.

Other Credits

Date	Description	Amount
03/31/2017	INTEREST PMT	\$1.39

Daily Balances

Date	Amount	Date	Amount
02/28/2017	\$15,575.72	03/31/2017	\$15,577.11

Oklahoma Employment Security Commission

EMPLOYERS QUARTERLY CONTRIBUTION REPORT

Cashier: P O Box 52004 Oklahoma City, Ok 73152-2004

Your report has been received, DO NOT mail a copy of the Employers Quarterly Contribution Report with payment.

1. Employee SSN	Change Type	2. Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	3. Total Wages Paid	4. Taxable Wages Paid
					\$6,927.66	\$6,927.66
				REPORT TOTAL	\$6,927.66	\$6,927.66

14. Monthly count of all full and part-time workers who worked or received pay subject to unemployment insurance for the payroll period that includes the 12th of the month.

Month 1 Month 2 Month 3

15. Oklahoma Account Number:
 16. Federal I.D. No:
 17. Qtr / Yr:
 18. Due Date:
 19. Employer Name / Address

TULSA COUNTY CONSERVATION DIST
6660 S Sheridan Rd Ste 120

TULSA
74133 -

Confirmation No.: **E2731D7383**

5. TOTAL WAGES PAID.....	\$6,927.66
6. TAXABLE WAGES PAID.....	\$6,927.66
7. Contribution Rate for This Quarter.....	1%
8. Contributions Due.....	\$69.28
9. Interest Due.....	\$0.00
10. 10% Penalty Due + \$100.00 Penalty Due.....	\$0.00
11. Debit.....	\$0.00
12. AMOUNT DUE.....	\$69.28
13. Amount Paid.....	

I certify this report is correct and no contribution is paid by any employee

Contact Name: **Gabriel Parker**
 Title: **District Secretary**
 Contact Phone: **918-280-1596**
 Date: **3/20/2017**

1st Quarter Calendar Year 2017
 January, February, March



Tulsa County Conservation District
6660. Sheridan Road, Suite 120 * Tulsa, Oklahoma 74133
918-280-1595 Fax: 1-855-421-7632 E-Mail: Tulsaccd@conservation.ok.gov

To: Oklahoma Conservation Commission

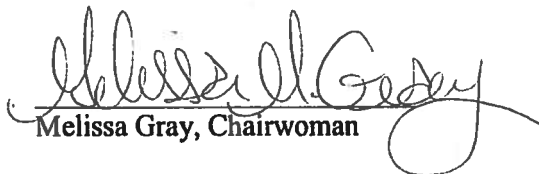
From: Tulsa County Conservation District

Date: March 20, 2017

RE: Longevity for Gabrielael Parker

Gabriel Parker has been continuously employed by the Tulsa County Conservation District without a break in service of more than 30 days since March 20, 2013. Ms. Parker received longevity payment in the amount of \$426.00, less taxes and retirement, on March 20, 2017.

Signed:


Melissa Gray, Chairwoman

Melissa Gray
Chairman

Jana Black
Vice Chair

Zach Kilburn
Treasurer

John Beasley
Member

Tom Tolbert
Member

CHECKLIST OF BOARD ACTION REQUIRED

After current program year guidelines are approved and distributed by OCC and prior to advertising the current program year locally your district board <u>must</u> discuss and vote on items 1-9 listed below. The action taken <u>must</u> be recorded in the board meeting minutes and on this form.			
	BOARD ACTION ITEM	DATE	ACTION TAKEN
1	Is your district participating in the current program year? You do not need to send a letter to OCC, simply take action in your board meeting.	3/16/2017	Yes
2	Are local board members allowed to make application in the local program? Complete the Director Participation form and return it to OCC. Any board member making application must immediately remove themselves from discussions and votes on program items at this time.	3/16/2017	No
3	Designate the authorized district representative. <u>Must</u> be a district board member. Any board member making application in the local program is <u>not</u> eligible to serve as the district representative.	3/16/2017	Melissa Gray, Chairwoman
4	Designate the technical representative. <u>Must</u> meet the requirements stated in the Rules.	3/16/2017	Freddy Trujillo, NRCS Cleon Bradford, NRCS
5	Review the conservation practices listed in the Program Year Guidelines and approve practices your district will offer locally.	3/16/2017	All
6	Review and approve the average costs listed in the Program Year Guidelines for the practices your district will offer locally	3/16/2017	Use State Average
7	Establish your district's local cost-share rate (percentage) and maximum cost-share payment amount. Your cost-share rate can't exceed 75% and the maximum cost- share payment amount can't exceed \$5,000 per participant.	3/16/2017	Cost-Share rate of 75% Maximum cost-share payment amount of \$5,000 per participant.
8	Establish specific local eligibility and selection criteria/priority system that will be used to select successful applicants.	3/16/2017	Add a consideration for undeserved areas as well as pending new ranking information from NRCS
9	Establish your district's application period and how the program will be advertised locally.	3/16/2017	Application period ends May 31, 2017. Will advertise in digital media, word of mouth, and other community partners.
STOP STOP After the application period has closed your district can proceed to item 10. STOP STOP			
10	Review, rank and approve applications using the eligibility and selection criteria/priority system approved under item 8 above. Board meeting minutes must include the following for each approved participant: agreement number, participant name, practice(s), completion date, cost-share rate, and maximum amount.		

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Application Ranking Summary

Tulsa County Cropland

Program:	Ranking Date:	Application Number:
Ranking Tool: Tulsa County Cropland		Applicant:
Final Ranking Score:		Address:
Planner:	Telephone:	
Farm Location:		

National Priorities Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
If the application is for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP), the agency will assign significant ranking priority and conservation benefit by answering "Yes" to the following question. Answering "Yes" to question 1a will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the national priority category.	
1. a. Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer is "Yes", do not answer any other national level questions. If answer is "No", proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Water Quality Degradation – Will the proposed project improve water quality by: (select all that apply)	
2. a. Implementing the practices in a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. b. Implementing the practices in a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. c. Reducing impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides on land adjoining a designated "impaired water body" (TMDL, 303d listed waterbody, or other State designation)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. d. Reducing the impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides in a "non-impaired water body"?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. e. Implementing practices that improve water quality through animal mortality and carcass management?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Water Conservation – Will the proposed project conserve water by: (select all that apply)	
3. a. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce aquifer overdraft.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. b. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce on-farm water use?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. c. Implementing practices in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. d. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm water use as a result of changing to crops with lower water consumptive use, the rotation of crops, or the modification of cultural operations?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Air Quality - Will the proposed project improve air quality by: (select all that apply)	
4. a. Meeting on-farm regulatory requirements relating to air quality or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. b. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm emissions of particulate matter (PM2.5, PM10)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. c. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm generated greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide (CO2), methane (CH4), and nitrous oxide (N2O)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. d. Implementing practices that increase on-farm carbon sequestration?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Soil Health:– Will the proposed project improve soil health by: (select all that apply)	
5. a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil "T")?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
5. b. Increasing organic matter and carbon content, and improving soil tilth and structure?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Wildlife Habitat – Will the proposed project improve wildlife habitat by: (select all that apply)	
6. a. Implementing practices benefitting threatened and endangered, at-risk, candidate, or species of concern.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. b. Implementing practices that retain wildlife and plant habitat on land exiting the Conservation	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

Reserve Program (CRP) or other set-aside program?	
6. c. Implementing practices benefitting honey bee populations or other pollinators?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. d. Implementing land-based practices that improve habitat for aquatic wildlife?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Plant and Animal Communities: Will the proposed project improve plant and animal communities by: (select all that apply)	
7. a. Implementing practices that result in the management control of noxious or invasive plant species on non-cropland?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
7. b. Implementing practice in an Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Energy Conservation– Will the proposed project reduce energy use by: (select all that apply)	
8. a. Reducing on-farm energy consumption?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
8. b. Implementing practice(s) identified in an approved AgEMP or energy audit, which meet ASABE S612 criteria?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Business Lines – Will the practices to be scheduled in the “EQIP Plan of Operations” result in:	
9. a. Enhancement of existing conservation practice(s) or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is received?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

State Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
Conservation Activity Plans _ If this application is for the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP) answer this question only and set the application type to "Planning" or "Plan Organic".	
1. a. Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP) developed by a registered TSP? If the answer is “Yes,” do not answer any other state level questions. If the answer is “No,” proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Degraded Plant Condition - answer yes to only one of questions 2ab, 2b, and 2c. Answer yes to only one of questions 2d, and 2e	
2. a. Will the proposed contract address undesirable plant productivity and health resource concern as identified through rangeland health or pasture condition scoring AND include a prescribed grazing plan as outlined in the "plans and specifications" section of the NRCS Prescribed Grazing (528) standard on all contracted acres.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. b. Will the proposed contract address undesirable plant productivity and health resource concern as identified through rangeland health or pasture condition scoring AND include a prescribed grazing plan as outlined in the "plans and specifications" section of the NRCS Prescribed Grazing (528) standard on >75% of the total contract acres.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. c. Will the proposed contract address undesirable plant productivity and health resource concern as identified through rangeland health or pasture condition scoring AND include a prescribed grazing plan as outlined in the "plans and specifications" section of the NRCS Prescribed Grazing (528) standard on >50% of the total contract acres.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. d. Will the proposed contract include practices identified in an integrated Pest Management Plan as specified in the "Plans and Specifications" portion of the standard that will address Excessive Plant Pest Pressure by controlling one of the following species of statewide significance: Salt Cedar (tamarisk, Sericea Lespedeza, Musk Thistle, Scotch Thistle, Canada Thistle, Eastern Red Cedar, or Mesquite on all impacted grazingland acres within the plan unit?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. e. Will the proposed contract activities include practices that will address Excessive Plant Pest Pressure by controlling one or more of the following species of statewide significance: Salt Cedar (tamarisk), Sericea Lespedeza, Musk Thistle, Scotch Thistle, Canada Thistle, Eastern Red Cedar, or Mesquite on all grazingland contracted acres where they occur in densities that constitute a resource concern?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Soil Erosion	
3. a. Will the proposed contract include conservation practices to address sheet, rill and/or wind erosion where soil loss is greater than "T" and the proposed contract will include conservation practices that will reduce sheet, rill or wind erosion below "T" on at least 25% of the contracted acres (based on before and after RUSLE2 or WEPS calculations).?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. b. Will the proposed contract include conservation practices to address concentrated flow erosion and	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

include conservation practices that will control and prevent active ephemeral gullies on cropland?	
3. c. Will the proposed contract include conservation practices to address concentrated flow erosion and include conservation practices that will stop the progression of head cutting and widening of active classic gullies?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Water Quality Degradation: Will the proposed contract include conservation practices to address excess nutrients in surface and ground waters? (Points can be accumulated from each question, if applicable.)	
4. a. The proposed contract will include activities developed through a nutrient management plan, as specified in the Oklahoma NRCS Nutrient Management (590) standard, that includes application of nutrients (inorganic or organic) in such a manner that does not adversely affect surface or ground water. This category includes CNMP planning.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. b. The proposed contract will include conservation practices developed through a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) that involve storage, handling and/or application of animal waste in such a manner that does not adversely affect surface or ground water quality.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. c. The proposed contract will include conservation practices developed through a CNMP that involve storage, handling and/or application of animal waste in such a manner that does not adversely affect surface or ground water quality, on land within a designated "Nutrient Limited Watershed" (Nutrient Limited Watershed maps can be found in eFOTG- section II - Special Environmental Concerns Information).	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. d. The proposed contract will include conservation practices developed through a CNMP that involve storage, handling and/or application of animal waste in such a manner that does not adversely affect surface or ground water on land within 3 miles of a 303(d) listed impaired or threatened waters?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. e. The proposed contract will include conservation practices developed through a CNMP that involve storage, handling and application of animal waste in such a manner that does not adversely affect surface or ground water on land adjoining 303(d) listed impaired or threatened waters (303d listing can be found in eFOTG - section II - Special Environmental Concerns Information - Clean Water - Oklahoma DEQ GIS Data Viewer).	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. f. The proposed contract activities will address excessive nutrients or sediment in surface waters in intermittent streams and/or perennial streams through livestock exclusion or installation of filters or buffers.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Inadequate Habitat Fish and Wildlife - Wildlife Habitat Degradation: Will the proposed project improve wildlife habitat by (select all that apply)	
5. a. Will the proposed contract activities correct all limiting factor(s) identified as resource concerns within a state approved wildlife habitat evaluation guide and/or a written, site-specific wildlife habitat plan for a specific wildlife species or guild of species identified as Whitetail deer, Quail and Turkey.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
5. b. Will the proposed contract activities restore habitat to the ecological site description's presumed historic vegetative community?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Excess/Insufficient Water-Inefficient Use of Irrigation Water. Answer all of questions 6a through 6e that apply. Answer only one of 6f or 6g.	
6. a. Will the proposed contract activities reduce the gross amount of water applied on an operation that is currently drawing water from the Ogallala Aquifer or the Altus Lugert Irrigation District?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. b. Will the proposed contract activities reduce the acres of irrigated cropland on an operation?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. c. Will the proposed contract activities result in implementing practices that reduce irrigation water applied due to a change in the existing crop rotation that includes non irrigated crop or fallow period?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. d. Will the proposed contract activities result in implementing practices that reduce irrigation water applied as a result of changing existing crop rotation to a crop rotation with lower water consumptive use or rotation of crops?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. e. Will the proposed contract activities include the implementation of Well Decommissioning (351) and/or will the producer agree to destroy the existing irrigation system which is being replaced by a more efficient system?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. f. Will the proposed contract activities result in an estimated 20% or more reduction of gross water applied?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. g. Will the proposed contract activities result in an estimated 10-19% reduction of gross water applied?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Business Lines	
7. a. Will the proposed contract be scheduled for completion within 2 years of obligation?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

7. b. Will the proposed contract include activities identified in an existing conservation plan as needed to complete or enhance an existing conservation system?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
7. c. Has the applicant had a previous EQIP contract that was terminated in the past 3 years or is currently in non-compliance?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

Local Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
Inefficient Water - Inefficient Use of Irrigation Water: CONVERSION OF SPRINKLER SYSTEM - answer only one of the four questions:	
1. Inefficient Water - Inefficient Use of Irrigation Water: CONVERSION OF SPRINKLER SYSTEM: Will a sprinkler irrigation system be converted to LESA center pivot or LESA linear sprinkler system?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
1. Inefficient Water - Inefficient Use of Irrigation Water: CONVERSION OF SPRINKLER SYSTEM: Will a sprinkler irrigation system be converted to LPIC center pivot or LPIC linear sprinkler system?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
1. Inefficient Water - Inefficient Use of Irrigation Water: CONVERSION OF SPRINKLER SYSTEM: Will a sprinkler irrigation system be converted to MESA center pivot or MESA linear sprinkler system?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
1. Inefficient Water - Inefficient Use of Irrigation Water: CONVERSION OF SPRINKLER SYSTEM: Will a sprinkler irrigation system be converted to SDI (sub-surface drip irrigation) or LEPA center pivot or LEPA linear sprinkler system?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Soil Quality Degredation: Organic Matter Depletion - answer only one of the two questions:	
2. Soil Quality Degredation: Organic Matter Depletion - Will Planned system have a STIR value of 31-60?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. Soil Quality Degredation: Organic Matter Depletion - Will Planned system have a STIR value of no greater than 30?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Degraded Plant Conditions: Undesirable Plant Productivity and Health - answer only one of the two questions:	
4. Degraded Plant Conditions: Undesirable Plant Productivity and Health - Will system utilize the installation of a Seasonal High Tunnel House in their operation where none previously has been applied?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
5. Degraded Plant Conditions: Undesirable Plant Productivity and Health - Will system utilize the installation of an additional Seasonal High Tunnel House in their cropland operation?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Business Lines: Multiple answers are acceptable	
3. Soil Quality Degradation: Organic Matter Depletion - Does the offer include adoption of one or more of the following treatments to improve Soil Condition Index to greater than "0": Conservation Crop Rotation (328), Cover Crop (340), Residue and Tillage Management(329), Deep Tillage (324), Prescribed Grazing (528), Residue Management (329).	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. Other - Has the applicant ever had a previous USDA contract that was not fulfilled?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

Land Use:

Resource Concerns	Practices
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Ranking Score

Efficiency:
Local Issues:
State Issues:
National Issues:
Final Ranking Score:

This ranking report is for your information. It does not in any way guarantee funding. When funding becomes available, you will be notified if your application is selected for funding. Some changes to the application may be required before a final contract is awarded.

Notes:

NRCS Representative:	Applicant Signature Not Required on this report for Contract Development unless required by State policy:
Signature Date:	Signature Date:

Use this form July 1, 2013 to June 30.

Conservation District:

April-17

Month & Year

Day of Month

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----

[illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible]

Estimated number of hours all district staff worked this month assisting with Farm Bill delivery: 40 Hours

I certify that the above items as marked have been accomplished according to the terms of this agreement and meet with my full satisfaction.

Michael L. Gray 05/11/17
Conservation District Board Representative (Signature & Date)

Chas. Brown (5/11/15)
NRCS District Conservationist (Signature & Date)

TCCD Monthly Outreach and Activities Report

March 2017



Meetings:

03/02/2017	Sustainable Tulsa Meeting
03/08/2017	Earth Day Planning Meeting – Did not Attend
03/16/2017	TCCD Board Meeting
03/16/2017	Crow Creek Planning Committee Meeting
03/22/2017	Earth Day Planning Meeting
03/28/2017	Crow Creek Landscape Committee Meeting
03/29/2017	Earth Day Planning Meeting
03/30/2017	Crow Creek Planning Meeting

Special Events:

03/09-3/12	Home and Garden Show
03/25/2017	TCC Northeast Campus's Eco Fest – Did not Attend
03/30/2017	Campaign @ the Capital – Did not Attend

Upcoming Meetings

04/05/2017	Earth Day Planning Meeting
04/06/2017	NRCS All Staff Meeting – Cancelled
04/12/2017	Earth Day Planning Meeting
04/13/2017	TCCD Board Meeting

Up Coming Events:

04/07/2017	Tulsa Garden Center's Spring Fest
04/19/2017	The M.e.t's Enviro Expo
04/21/2017	TPS's Earth Day: celebrate CommUNITY Event
04/22/2017	Sierra Club's Earth Day Festival
04/26/2017	Campaign for Conservation @ The Capitol
04/27/2017	Driller's Go Green Night
05/06/2017	Butter Creek, Creek Clean-Up

Upcoming Deadlines:

05/19/2017	Participants Submitted for Second Level Review
06/02/2017	Contracts Obligation Deadline

Work Duties Performed:

- ❖ Assemble Agenda and Minutes for Meetings
- ❖ Answer phones
- ❖ Cost-Share Year 17 & 18 Assistance
- ❖ TCCD/TACF Website Updates
- ❖ Email Correspondences
- ❖ Bill Pay
- ❖ NRCS Contract Labels
- ❖ TCCD File Organization
- ❖ NRCS Scanning E-File Maintenance and Labeling
- ❖ Office Mail
- ❖ Update Office Calendars

SATURDAY APRIL 22
10-7
EARTH DAY FESTIVAL



Hands Around
the Park
@ Noon



JOHNSON PARK

61st and
Riverside

Music
Art
Quilts

Green Country
Carrie Dickerson Foundation
All Souls Green Team
Sierra Club

Info
KidsZone
Feed



79th Annual OACD State Meeting Agenda

February 26, 27, and 28

Sunday February 26, 2017

- 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. – Registration, Trade Show set-up, silent auction set-up
- 1:00 p.m. - OACDE Executive Board Meeting
- 1:30 p.m. - State Speech Contest Divisions I & II
- 2:00 p.m. - OACD Resolutions Committee Meeting
- 3:00 p.m. - OACD Nominations Committee Meeting
- 4:00 p.m. - OACD & OACDE Youth Awards Program
- 5:00 p.m. - Inspiration Hour with Greg Scott and music by Jimmy & Larry Ford and Jimmy Emmons
- 7:30 p.m. – Social Game Night with OACDE

Monday February 27, 2017

- 7:00 a.m. - OACDE Program with Sean Wallace from the Oklahoma Public Employees Association
- 7:00 a.m. - Registration for trade show and conference
- 8:00 a.m. - Trade show opens & silent auction
- 9:00 a.m. - 1st General Session with Mike Brown, Executive Director of the National Association of State Conservation Agencies
"Why Conservation Districts Matter"
- 10:00 a.m. - Break
- 10:15 a.m. - Concurrent Sessions with track options for employees, NRCS and directors
 - "What you need to know about being a district director" with Mike Brown, Executive Director of NASCA
 - "Accomplished Stars – Higher Goals – District Employee Training: watershed PDM3 Forms, OK Maps, IT Phone Training and more!"
 - "Opportunities for Oklahoma Producers: Client Gateway, Revised Conservation Stewardship Program & the Regional Conservation Partnership Program" Gary O'Neill, OK State Conservationist, Stacy Riley, NRCS- asst. state Conservationist programs and Robert Hathorne, NRCS - Public Information Officer
- 10:30 a.m. – Auxiliary Program "Making a Succulent Dish Garden" with Casey Hentges, host of Oklahoma Gardening
- 12:00 a.m. – Lunch with Dr. Jim Chamberlain, Co-Director of the WaTER Center at OU
- 1:00 p.m. – NRCS Partnership Awards, Director & Employee Service Awards, OK Prescribed Fire Association Awards and Auxiliary Scholarship
- 1:45 p.m. – Auxiliary departs for Governor's Mansion tour
- 2:45 p.m. - Concurrent Sessions of Business Meetings
 - Natural Resources Conservation Services
 - Oklahoma Association of Conservation District – presentation of the 2017 Legislative Agenda, Awards Discussion
 - Oklahoma Association of Conservation District Employees – presentation of the 2017 Legislative Agenda, Awards Discussion
- 6:00 p.m. - Legislative Reception
- 7:00 p.m. - Legislative Banquet & Awards
 - Employee of the Year
 - Hall of Fame Awards
 - President's Award
 - 2016 Demonstration Farm Awardees
 - The 2nd Annual "Mike Thralls Memorial Scholarship" Awardees

Outstanding Cooperator, Director and District
8:00 p.m. - Live Auction

Tuesday February 28, 2017

7:30 a.m. - OACD Past President's Breakfast

8:00 a.m. - Tradeshow opens

8:00 a.m. - Pesticide Applicators Workshop

8:30 a.m. - 2nd General Session *"Blue River Water Quality Project"* with Jona Tucker, Preserve Director for the Nature Conservancy
Announcement of 2016 OACD Executive Board Members

9:30 a.m. – Concurrent Sessions

"From No-Till to Higher Functioning Agro-Ecological Systems" Adam Daughtery, Coffee County, TN NRCS District
 Conservationist

"Educational Focus for Districts"

10:15 a.m. – Concurrent Sessions

"Utilizing Soil Health Practices to Increase Farm Profits" Russell Hedrick, JRH Grain Farms

"How Districts can become involved with OK Monarch Efforts" Katie Hawk, Coordinator for Monarch Summit

11:00 a.m. – Break

11:15 a.m. – Concurrent Sessions

"Managing Weeds with a Population-Based Approach" Dr. Randy Anderson, Agriculture Research Services, South
 Dakota

Noon – Lunch*

 *District employees and district directors can purchase Tuesday lunch tickets at cost for \$30.00; lunch is included in
 the \$40 Tuesday daily registration fee.

1:00 p.m. *"How Healthy Soils can help your Operation Weather Climate Change"* Dr. Cait Rottler, Agriculture Research Services,
Oklahoma

1:30 p.m. – *"Soil Testing for Soil Health"* Dr. Rick Haney, ARS, Texas via Live Webinar

2:00 p.m. – *"OSU Soil Health Assessment Tool"* Dr. Jason Warren, Oklahoma State University

2:30 p.m. – *"Applying Soil Health Principles on Grazing Lands"* Steve Glasgow, USDA-NRCS

3:00 p.m. – Producer Network Concurrent Breakouts



January 6, 2017

Name
Address
City, State Zip

CC: Chairman name
Address
City, state Zip

Dear ,

Conservation Districts do critical work necessary to preserve our soil, water, air, native plants and animals, to maintain our flood control structures and watersheds and to educate those who manage the land, the public, and our youth about the importance of stewardship. OACD is your voice to share that message with elected officials, agency leaders and community stakeholders. When we tell the story of locally led, voluntary conservation as one voice, people listen. They listen, because every day you are doing amazing things in the community.

We get that districts and directors are being asked to do more, to help their neighboring district, to partner with old friends and new friends in order to carry on with our work. We understand that all of this comes at a time when the state legislature continues to cut state appropriations for conservation, when the gross production tax income levels are low, and when employees have gone without a raise for seven years. We want you to know that we are working, every day, to keep conservation districts in the forefront of the minds of elected officials and key decision makers. In addition to being your steadfast advocate, OACD is continuing to work on issues of soil health by leading and assisting with training and networking opportunities for districts, directors and cooperators. We continue to partner with agencies and nonprofits to address water quality, air quality, pollinator habitat, invasive species issues.

Your 2017 annual dues payment of \$400 allows us to complete these efforts on your behalf. Thank you for being a member of OACD.

Sincerely,

Steve House
OACD President

*Okconservation.org has all the up-to-date information on OACD efforts. Please use the calendar tab to add your district events at okconservation.org/submit-event-for-calendar



January 6, 2017

2017 OACD Membership Dues Notice

OACD annual organization dues: \$400/conservation district
payment fulfills requirements for a district to be in good standing

There are multiple dues payment options including:

- one time installment of \$400.00
- two installments of \$200.00
- four installments of \$100.00

Please complete payments by 9/1/2017 unless payment plan indicated, then dues are to be paid in full by 12/31/2017

Make checks payable to:

OACD

PO Box 2775

Oklahoma City, OK 73101

In order to make sure we have current information to inform districts of important news regarding programs, legislation and events **please include a list of your board members and employees names, email addresses and phone number(s).**

District Name: _____

Board/Employee Member Contact Info ____ attached ____ emailed to
sarahblaney@okconservation.org



National Association of Conservation Districts

April 1, 2017

Dear District Officials:

We hope you recognize the work NACD does on your behalf every day. NACD works hard to represent your conservation district's interests on Capitol Hill. We collaborate to your benefit with federal and private sector partners and provide you and your district's employees with the latest in tools and guides to better serve your community. NACD is a membership organization that relies on your annual dues payment to accomplish these goals. We are proud to be your voice for natural resource conservation and appreciate any support you can offer.

Here are just a few highlights of our recent activities and preview of what's to come:

Our 2017 Annual Meeting brought more than 850 conservation leaders to Denver
NACD's 71st Annual Meeting took place in Denver, Colorado. Participants heard from VIP speakers during the meeting's general sessions, including Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper and three-time Olympian Jenny Simpson, and expert presenters and panelists at breakout sessions. Over 30 agencies, businesses, and districts made presentations from our Conservation Expo Stage or showcased their conservation work in our Conservation Expo Hall. Next year's meeting will be held in Nashville, Tennessee, from January 27 – 31, 2018.

NACD testified before Congress on the importance of voluntary conservation
CEO Jeremy Peters testified on behalf of NACD during a House Agriculture Subcommittee's hearing on the next farm bill this February. His testimony emphasized the important role conservation districts have in providing on-the-ground conservation planning and tailoring technical assistance to landowners.

Our Spring Fly-In sparked a grassroots movement
NACD's annual Spring Fly-In brought in more than 150 conservation leaders from across the country this March. Members spent the day meeting face-to-face with their representatives and senators to discuss natural resource issues affecting their districts and local communities.

We're headed to Des Moines for NACD's Summer Conservation Forum & Tour
NACD invites you and yours to join us in Des Moines, Iowa, this summer, July 15 – 18, for our annual Summer Conservation Forum & Tour. Held in conjunction with Iowa Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners' meeting and the state association's annual conference, this year's summer meeting will be a time to network and share best practices.

For more on these activities, and to remain up-to-date (or catch up) with NACD's activities and all things conservation, head over to our website – www.nacdnet.org – to sign up for NACD's electronic publications:

eResource: A weekly digest of news briefs sent to your inbox every Tuesday.

The Resource: A quarterly publication that provides in-depth coverage of the association's recent activities and features columns from NACD's CEO, president, and closest partners.

Forestry Notes: A monthly publication highlighting forestry issues and district-led forestry projects.

Conservation Clip List: A weekly round-up of the latest conservation news sent every Friday.

Don't forget to follow us on Facebook and Twitter! And feel free to reach out to your NACD Board Member, NACD Officer, NACD Executive Board Member, or one of our staff members to hear what NACD does for our members across the nation.

Sincerely,

Kim LaFleur
Secretary-Treasurer

Dues Structure & Benefits

Platinum*	\$3,001+
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2nd registration free to NACD Annual Meeting• 2 invitations to NACD President's Reception at Annual Meeting• 20% off a single purchase of \$100 or more from the NACD Marketplace (excluding sale/clearance items)	
Diamond*	\$1,776 - \$3,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2nd registration half-price to NACD Annual Meeting• 1 invitation to NACD President's Reception at NACD Annual Meeting• 15% off a single purchase of \$100 or more from NACD Marketplace (excluding sale/clearance items)	
Gold*	\$775 - \$1,775
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 10% off a single purchase of \$100 or more from the NACD Marketplace (excluding sale/clearance items)	
Silver	\$501 - \$774
Bronze	\$101 - \$500
Contributor	\$1 - \$100

**Full Membership Level (Gold and above)*



National Association of Conservation Districts

CONSERVATION INVESTMENT

Customer #: 44011

Investment Date: April 1, 2017

Tulsa County Conservation District
6660 S Sheridan Rd Ste 120
Tulsa, OK 74145-1768

2017 Membership Level	Quantity	Price	Amount
Platinum (\$3,001 +)	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____
Diamond (\$1,776 - \$3,000)	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____
Gold (\$775 - \$1,775)	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____
Silver (\$501 - \$774)	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____
Bronze (\$101 - \$500)	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____
Contributor (\$1 - \$100)	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____

PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW!

Please continue to support your National Association by making your membership payment. Complete the application form and send with payment to NACD headquarters.

Kim LaFleur
NACD Secretary/Treasurer

Investment Total	\$ _____
Taxes	\$ 0.00
Amount Paid	\$ _____
Please Pay	\$ _____

PLEASE DETACH AND REMIT WITH YOUR PAYMENT

Conservation Investment FY17 (check one)					
Platinum (\$3,001 +)	Diamond (\$1,776 - \$3,000)	Gold (\$775 - \$1,775)	Silver (\$501 - \$774)	Bronze (\$101 - \$500)	Contributor (\$1 - \$100)
Payment					
Final Payment Installment _____ of _____		Check # _____			
Amount Paid: _____		Visa MasterCard Discover Card No. _____ Exp. Date _____ Name on Card _____ Signature _____			
Customer #: 44011 Tulsa County Conservation District 6660 S Sheridan Rd Ste 120 Tulsa, OK 74145-1768 check here for change of address (see back for details)			Mail check and form to: National Association of Conservation Districts 509 Capitol Court NE Washington, DC 20002 Fax credit cards and form to: 202-547-6450		

Power of Partial Improvements
Wish list

Supplies (prices from Amazon):

30 Gallon Bags (40 pack): \$7.49/ea (\$149.80 @ 20)

First Aid Kit: \$14.49/ea (\$43.37 @ 3)

Rubber Boots: \$19.04/ea (\$114.24 @ 6)

Medical Waste Bin (2qt): \$6.51/ea (\$13.02 @ 2)

Canon 240 Black Ink: \$22.98/ea (\$68.94 @ 3)

Storage Shelf: \$29.99/ea (\$59.98 @ 2)

2" x 20" Strap: \$11/ea (\$22 @ 2)

Gardening Gloves (4 pack): \$17.90/ea (\$179 @ 10)

Purrell (2L x 2): \$24.25/ea (\$48.50 @ 2)

Bow Rake: \$15.61/ea (\$31.22 @ 2)

Safety Glasses (12 pack): \$13.69/ea (\$54.76 @ 4)

Safety Vest: \$21.99/ea (\$43.98 @ 2)

Clip Board (6 pack): \$9.95/ea

BIC Pen (36 pack): \$5.99/ea

Guerilla Cart: \$80 (\$160 @ 2)

Total: \$1004.75

Federal Payments Made

7/8/2016	ACH 7/11/2016	IRS	941 Tax Payment for June 2016	Payroll Tax	\$	646.60
8/10/2016	ACH 8/10/2016	IRS	941 Tax Payment for July 2016	Payroll Tax	\$	646.61
9/10/2016	ACH 9/12/2016	IRS	941 Tax Payment for August 2016	Payroll Tax	\$	646.61
10/7/2016	ACH 10/7/2016	IRS	941 Tax Payment for September 2016	Payroll Tax	\$	646.41
10/11/2016	ACH 10/11/2016	IRS	941 Additional Tax Payment for September 2016 made pymnt 646.41	Payroll Tax	\$	0.20
11/10/2016	ACH 11/11/2016	IRS	940 Tax Payment for October 2016	Payroll Tax	\$	646.61
12/9/2016	ACH 12/9/2016	IRS	941 Tax Payment for November 2016	Payroll Tax	\$	646.60
1/10/2017	ACH 1/10/2017	IRS	941 Tax Payment for December 2016	Payroll Tax	\$	646.61
2/10/2017	ACH 2/10/2017	IRS	941 Tax Payment for January 2017	Payroll Tax	\$	650.44
3/10/2017	ACH 3/10/2017	IRS	941 Tax Payment for February 2017	Payroll Tax	\$	650.44
4/10/2017	ACH 4/10/2017	IRS	941 Tax Payment for March 2017	Payroll Tax	\$	715.82
					\$	6,542.95

Per Month from July to December	Per Month From January to February 2017			Per Month for March March 2017 With Longevity		
Federal Withholdings	\$ 290.00	Federal Withholdings	\$ 300.00	Federal Withholdings	\$ 300.00	
Fica	\$ 144.51	Fica	\$ 142.01	Fica	\$ 168.42	
Medicare	\$ 33.80	Medicare	\$ 33.21	Medicare	\$ 39.39	
Total Withheld From Check	\$ 468.31	Total Withheld From Check	\$ 475.22	Total Withheld From Check	\$ 507.81	
Federal Payment Made Per Month	646.61	Federal Payment Made Per Month	650.64	Federal Payment Made Per Month	\$ 715.82	
Amount withheld	468.31	Amount withheld	475.22	Amount withheld	\$ 507.81	
Total Not Covered from Withholdings per formula	178.3	Total Not Covered from Withholdings per formula	\$ 175.42	Total Not Covered from Withholdings per formula	\$ 208.01	
Total Not Withheld from Jul to Dec	1069.8	Total Not Withheld from Jan to Feb	350.84	Total Not Withheld from March	\$ 208.01	
Per the formula, 2 (Fica + Medicare) + Federal Withholdings	Total Not Withheld from July 2016 to March 2017 In Federal Payments			\$ 1,628.65		
<u>OESC Payments Made and Not Reimbursed/Whithheld</u>	<u>\$ 106.74</u>					
9/21/2016	ACH 9/23/2016	OESC	3rd Quarter Unemployment Payment	Payroll Tax	\$	37.46
3/30/2017	ACH 4/4/2017	OESC	3rd Quarter Unemployment Payroll Tax	\$		69.28

DATE: 1/8/2016

TO: NRCS

FROM: CTS

SUBJECT: Plan's impact to NRCS partners at Field Service Centers, Large Offices, and State Offices from SIP/EVOIP Projects.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As a result of the new CTS technology offering and CTS/NRCS agreed upon plan, in cases where NRCS partners are paying for their own phone number(s) directly to a phone company, the NRCS partners will have to transfer ownership of their phone number(s) to CTS in order for CTS to continue to provide phone service in the new SIP/EVOIP environment. CTS will provide a simple pre-populated template form for the Designated Account Representative of the partner to sign and return to CTS authorizing that transfer. If the NRCS partner does not wish to transfer that ownership, they will need to procure, install, and support their own phone system once SIP deploys to that site.

SCENARIOS

Field Service Centers | Large Offices | State Offices pending an EVOIP deployment-
(Approximately 480 sites with NRCS partner presence pending EVOIP install)

If NRCS partner does **not** object to CTS taking over ownership of their number, CTS will pass the transfer form along the proper channel for signature and continue providing them phone service. Should the partner require CTS network connections at their employees' workspace (required for CTS VOIP phone), the partner will be responsible for those cabling costs and having that work completed. CTS will provide any network switch(es) needed.

If NRCS partner objects to porting the number to CTS's Verizon account, CTS will not be able to provide phone service to them. They will need to procure and support their own system. There's an aggressive SIP project schedule so the partner would need to react quickly (typically 90 days). EVOIP deployment will progress as scheduled with the NRCS partner being excluded in planning.

Field Service Centers | Large Offices | State Offices already on EVOIP -

If NRCS partner does **not** object to CTS taking over ownership, CTS will pass the form along the proper channel for signature and continue providing them phone service. Because they already have EVOIP service from CTS, it can be assumed CTS network connections are present in the necessary workspaces and no further cabling is needed.

If NRCS partner objects to porting the number to Verizon, CTS will not be able to provide phone service to them. They will need to procure and support their own system.

There's an aggressive SIP project schedule so the partner would need to react quickly (typically 90 days from when we identify a site as SIP eligible).

COMMUNICATION PLAN

Agency Level- Notification of requirements and impact

CTS CIO will outline topics and issues to NRCS CIO for situational awareness. The NRCS CIO will draft an NRCS memo outlining the project and requirements of the ownership transfer. This memo will be attached to any CTS communications to the affected sites.

Site Level- Letters of Authorization Signed

CTS-NOB/CTS-TSD will identify sites that have NRCS partners; CTS-NOB will fill out the porting form and ready it for signature; CTS-NOB will pass the form to the GM of the affected site along with the NRCS memo; The GM will liaise with local NRCS using prescribed talking points; NRCS will liaise with their partner with prescribed talking points. The signed form will travel back through the chain to CTS-NOB.

FAQ

Q: Why is this changing now?

A: Currently, POTS/PRI lines provide the path for inbound and outbound calls to a site. In SIP, this will change as the phone calls will come in via the WAN circuit instead of on the traditional phone company infrastructure (POTS/PRI). Once we transfer ownership of the numbers to our Verizon SIP account, they can route calls bound for those numbers onto our WAN circuits via the SIP protocol and ultimately into our EVOIP phone system. This is the next offering on the CTS Phone Service technology roadmap.

Q: What are the cost impacts to NRCS, or NRCS partners, in transferring the ownership to CTS?

A: NRCS (or its partner) will no longer be responsible for the monthly recurring service charge from the phone company on their phone number(s). There are no costs to perform the actual transfer; certain phone companies may charge a nominal disconnection fee to the NRCS Partner for any POTS lines disconnected after the porting. A potential cabling cost exists in the scenario where the site is pending an EVOIP deployment, and the partner employees require a CTS network connection at their workspace.

Q: CTS is providing phone service, support, phones, and licensing (entails both initial and recurring costs) to the NRCS partner. Who is being "charged" for those things?

A: CTS views NRCS partnerships as NRCS responsibilities and therefore "charges" NRCS for its partners' "costs" in the same manner it always has. Any downstream or pass-through charges, agreements, or concessions are between NRCS and the partner.

Q: If CTS takes ownership of the number, can the partner take ownership back at a later date?

A: Yes, CTS would file paperwork with Verizon instructing them to give the number to a phone company of the partner's choosing.

Q: Who, specifically, should approach the NRCS partner with the phone company paperwork for signature?

A: CTS-NOB will fill out the pre-populated form and ready it for signature; CTS-NOB will pass it to the GM of the affected site along with the NRCS CIO memo; The GM will liaise with local NRCS; NRCS will liaise with their partner.

Q: If the NRCS partner employees do not have a CTS network connection at their workspace (required for CTS phones to work), who would pay to have that cabling done?

A: The partner would pay for that cabling to be done in accordance with the local standards and best practices. The average number of NRCS Partner headcount at any given site is 2.5 FTEs and as such, is not expected to be a large burden. Future growth would also fall to the partner to provide cabling to their workspace.

Q: If the NRCS partner adds additional network cabling to the CTS network, and as a result, an additional network switch is needed to accommodate that, who pays for that switch?

A: CTS-NOB will be responsible for additional network gear.

Q: What is the timing of the transfer and/or need to procure and install a new phone system?

**at the time of this writing, the main project started December 4th.*

A:

- i. The SIP project Pilot phase is coming to a close and we are beginning the main project in December 2015.
- ii. The main project is being broken into batches of approximately 100 sites per batch. These batches are not all determined yet; this is generated through technical discussions on a site-by-site basis between Verizon and CTS-NOB.
- iii. Once the batch is determined, there is approximately 14 calendar days of investigation and paperwork before the order is submitted.
- iv. It is 90 calendar days from order submittal to official cutover to SIP (Verizon driven). Thus, the shortest time cycle a site would have to procure and install a new phone system is approximately 104 calendar days from main project start date—and this would **only** be for sites that were designated in the first batch of 100 (dubbed SIP Phase 1). *March 17th is the target date for Phase 1 cutover.
- v. The next phase will start its 104 day cycle approximately 21 days into the previous phase's 104 day cycle. Thus, the next shortest time cycle a site has to procure and install a new phone system is approximately 125 days from main project start date. In this fashion, each subsequent phase will cutover 21 days after the previous.
- vi. The entire project is expected to take roughly 2 years and be approximately 27 phases. Thus, the longest time cycle a site has to procure and install a new phone system is approximately 650 calendar days from the main project start date.

GLOSSARY

EVOIP – Enterprise Voice over IP. This is a CTS internal moniker of our VOIP technology phone system. Was used to differentiate from a VOIP technology phone system at a site that was confined to servicing just that site. Site-only-VOIP-systems have been deprecated and don't exist but the EVOIP moniker remains.

LEC – Local Exchange Carrier. A term used to refer to the local phone company.

NRCS Partners – Non-governmental agencies such as Soil and Water Conservation District (aka SWCD, aka **CD**); Ducks Unlimited; Fish and Wildlife; Pheasants Forever; etc. SWCD is the primary NRCS partner we see in our environment.

POTS – Plain Old Telephone Service. Analog dial tone service provided by local phone companies. As compared to SIP service in this memo's context. Currently, each local site's router translates the analog POTS service into digital VOIP calls—but the calls use the POTS lines as the medium.

SCA Customers – RD, NRCS, FSA, OCIO.

SIP – Session Initiated Protocol. A network based protocol for handling phone calls wherein the WAN circuit is the medium to transport calls across. As compared to POTS service in this memo's context; Or so as to differential between the current VOIP phone system that is using the local POTS lines as the medium for the majority of calls.

SIP Hubs- USDA sites wherein the Verizon SIP service enters our network environment and from which our phone system distributes calls bound for phone numbers that we've ported to SIP. USDA currently has 2 hubs for fault tolerance (STL and KC), and will expand to 4 hubs (FTC and WashDC) by end of the project.

UCS – Unified Communications Services. CTS uses this term to differentiate between the existing EVOIP platform, and our next generation of our EVOIP system wherein the EVOIP system has an expanded set of features and services we're offering (AD integration, Jabber, Web Mgmt, etc).

VOIP- Generic term for phone service provided over the network infrastructure vs the traditional telephone company infrastructure. AND. Used internally among CTS to indicate a VOIP technology phone system at a site that was confined to servicing just that site.



Non-Profit, 501(c)3 FID# 27-3280831



Non-Profit, Public Trust FID# 73-6244571

3/28/2017

Hello Friend;

In honor of Earth Day's 47th year in April and The M.e.t.'s 30 years as an agency, we hope you will want to be an official recognized "Friend of The M.e.t." by supporting our annual campaign.

Since starting in 1987, The Metropolitan Environmental Trust (The M.e.t.) has led the way towards making Green Country truly green. While we do many things such as environmental education; our recycling centers, where we employ individuals with disabilities, are our most visible in the community. Enclosed is a flier with the membership levels. Your membership will give you the recognition you deserve while making a positive environmental impact in our community.

Thank you for your support,

Jill Norman, President

"Green" Graham Brannin,
M.e.t. Executive Director

What We Do

- 11 recycling drop-off centers in Tulsa and the surrounding metro area.
- Special waste disposal events (like batteries and tires)
- Environmental education and awareness.
- Friends of the M.e.t., Inc. was set up to support these projects and further recycling and sustainability.

What Can You Do?

- Help the M.e.t. reach their goals to develop and implement integrated and comprehensive solid waste management systems.
- Fund educational speeches, projects and brochures on recycling and environmental issues in schools, church groups, city governments, and more.
- Sponsor the annual Enviro Expo in downtown Tulsa allowing environmental groups to display their progress and information.
- Sponsor the fall banquet that honors the wonderful recycling heroes of Oklahoma.

Let's Be Friends!



Williams Tower 1
1 W. Third Street Suite 110
Tulsa, OK 74103
metrecycle.com
www.friendsofthemet.com



Who We Are

Friends of the M.e.t., Inc. is a charitable and educational organization that provides support for the promotion, education and operations of the Metropolitan Environmental Trust (The M.e.t.), its member communities, and the state of Oklahoma.

Donors include citizens, students, public officials, non-profit groups, and local companies who donate their time and money to support the M.e.t.'s mission.

The M.e.t continues to expand its recycling efforts with changing community needs. The need for your support is urgent and ongoing. with more than 80 individuals with disabilities working for The M.e.t., your donation will truly make an impact.



Levels of Membership

There are several membership levels to choose from when you become a Friend of the M.e.t.

Student/Retiree (65+): \$15

Individual: \$50

Family: \$100

Non-profit/Government: \$100

Corporate: \$250 - \$5000

Friends of the M.e.t. is a 501(c)3 organization and all donations are tax deductible.

You will receive regular issues of The M.e.t.'s e-newsletter, "Green Scene" and a car window cling identifying you as a Friend.

Corporate donors will receive further acknowledgment through our website and social media.



Yes, I am a Friend of the Met!

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ ZIP _____
Phone _____
E-mail _____

Membership Type:

- ☐ Student/Retiree (65+): \$15
☐ Individual: \$50
☐ Family: \$100
☐ Non-profit/Government: \$100
☐ Corporate: \$250 - \$5000

Payment Method:

- ☐ Check enclosed
☐ Charge to credit card
☐ Visa
☐ MasterCard

Card # _____
Expiration Date _____
Signature _____

Remit to:

Friends of the M.e.t.
c/o The M.e.t.
1 W 3rd St., Ste. 110
Tulsa, OK 74103



**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
URBAN AGRICULTURE CONSERVATION INITIATIVE**

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS
509 CAPITOL COURT NE
WASHINGTON DC 20002**

1. FUNDER BACKGROUND

The National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) is the nonprofit organization that represents America's almost 3000 conservation districts¹, their state or territory associations, and the elected/appointed officials who serve on their governing boards along with their professional staff.

NACD's mission is to serve conservation districts by providing national leadership and a unified voice for natural resource conservation. Among the goals of the organization are to:

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

NACD 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.

2. INITIATIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this Initiative is to increase the capacity to provide agriculture conservation technical assistance in communities where the land use is predominantly developed or developing land. Community health and sustainability will be enhanced by engaging citizens in agricultural conservation initiatives which benefit local residents with a focus on underserved populations² and areas known as food deserts³.

The objective is to provide financial assistance to conservation districts for leadership and support in community agricultural conservation initiatives including technical expertise in project design and natural resource management (e.g. soil health, water quality) that result in long-term natural resources protection for urban agricultural production through citizen engagement and partnerships.

According to the Michigan State University Center for Regional Food Systems' May 2014 report on *The Local Food Movement: Setting the Stage for Good Food*, "the local food movement in the United States has evolved over the past 25 years, including a more recent convergence with movements supporting food access and health, food justice, environment, food sovereignty, and racial equity."

Part of this evolution is the rapid expansion of urban agriculture across the nation. 'Urban agriculture' is defined by USDA National Agriculture Library as "taking the form of backyard, roof-top and balcony gardening, community gardening in vacant lots and parks, roadside urban fringe agriculture and livestock grazing in open space".

In order for urban agriculture to grow sustainably, conservation practices must be incorporated at all levels. This is a vital and viable role for the nation's conservation districts.

This NACD Urban Agriculture Conservation Initiative seeks to advance conservation districts' role by providing technical assistance funding for about 20 projects in predominantly developed and developing areas with a special emphasis on underserved areas.

The aforementioned MSU report summarized it well by stating *"We have a tremendous opportunity to thoughtfully rebuild a food system by increasing local, good food commerce across all populations, especially those marginalized by race, ethnicity, gender, size of business/farm, or economic class. Local food advocates, along with advocates of food access and health, food justice, environment, food sovereignty, and racial equity all must understand and embrace their unique yet interdependent roles in realizing this opportunity."* Through this Initiative, NACD plans to encourage conservation districts to understand and embrace their role too.

3. PROPOSAL GUIDELINES

All of the following sections must be included in each proposal with clear and concise information for the Selection Team. Each category is limited to a 500 word count; any text over that will NOT be read by the Selection Team. Before writing these, applicants should review the Proposal Evaluation Criteria in Section 5.

A. Cover Page

Provide the district name and address, contact person name/phone number/email address, project title, project description in 50 words or less, and grant amount requested.

B. Applicant Eligibility

Only conservation districts¹ as established under their state enabling legislation are eligible to apply for and manage these funds if awarded. Applicants are strongly encouraged to design the project with additional partners in order to ensure long-term sustainability.

C. Project Description

Describe the community population and location, the potential for community and partners' support, the urban agriculture conservation assistance needs, and how the project will address those needs. Include the additional benefits of the project such as stormwater infiltration, community engagement, etc.

D. Geographic Focus

While the Initiative is national in scope, priority will be given to those projects that focus on predominantly developed and developing areas with a special emphasis on underserved² areas including food deserts³.

E. Project Goals and Timeline

This is a one-year initiative running August 1, 2017 through July 31, 2018. List the specific goals of the project along with the proposed timeline for each.

F. Project Sustainability

Describe how the project will be continued after the initial grant has ended. Include up to 5 letters of support from potential partners. Proof of the project sustainability is a critical criteria.

G. District Capacity

Describe how this project will enhance the district's ability to provide conservation technical assistance (to urban agriculture) in predominantly developed and developing areas in the future.

H. Project Budget

NACD expects to grant up to \$50,000 each for approximately 20 projects. Budget categories are recommended in the chart below. No more than 10% of the NACD funds can be used for supplies and equipment; this means any outright purchases. No more than 5% of the NACD funds can be used for administrative costs. A match of 25% of the total NACD funds requested is required, including cash and/or in-kind services.

Provide a budget chart that clearly shows how the grant funds will be allocated (sample below). Include a brief explanation for each item. Place a '0' in the line items leaving blank. The amount requested must be totaled.

EXPENSE ITEM	NACD FUNDS	NON-NACD FUNDS AND/OR IN-KIND VALUE FOR 25% MATCH
Salary and Benefits		
Employee Support (training, mileage, etc)		
Consultant/Contractor		
Supplies, Equipment and Promotion (no more than 10%)		
Administrative (no more than 5%)		
Other		
TOTAL		

I. Applicant Qualifications

Describe the conservation district's experience and expertise in providing technical assistance in urbanized settings, working with non-traditional partners and engaging communities and citizens. If the experience and/or expertise is limited, describe how the conservation district board of directors and staff will prepare for the project implementation. A resolution adopted by the district board must be submitted in writing stating the board has reviewed and approved the proposal and has addressed potential conflicts of interest.

J. Project Promotion

Describe how the project will be showcased at the local, state and national levels.

4. PROPOSAL AND PROJECT TIMELINE

ACTIVITY	TIMEFRAME
NACD Announcement and Promotion	March 13 May 14, 2017
Applicant Proposal Deadline	May 15, 2017
NACD Proposal Review and Selection	May 16 – June 30, 2017
NACD Award Notification and Announcement	July 2017
Applicant Project Implementation	August 1, 2017 – July 31, 2018

Applicant Quarterly Reports to NACD	Starting date-Sep. 30, due Nov. 1; Oct. 1-Dec. 31, due Feb. 1; Jan. 1-Mar. 31, due May 1; Apr. 1-Jun. 30, due Aug. 1. A final report will be due at the conclusion of the grant period.
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5. PROPOSAL EVALUATION CRITERIA

An NACD Selection Team will be appointed to provide for the independent review and evaluation of the proposals.

The Team will evaluate all proposals based on the following criteria. To ensure consideration, your proposal should completely meet these criteria:

- ✓ Project provides technical support to conservation aspects of urban agriculture as defined by the USDA National Agriculture Library and stated in the above Initiative Summary.
- ✓ Project addresses the needs of underserved populations with details as to how this will be done.
- ✓ Project is designed at conservation district or multi-conservation district level.
- ✓ Proposal is signed off or approved by each involved conservation district board via an adopted resolution. Potential conflicts of interest are acknowledged and addressed according to state requirements.
- ✓ Proposal provides up to 5 letters of community support from an array of partners, especially nontraditional such as private sector and nonprofits.
- ✓ Proposal shows proof of project sustainability (e.g. inclusion in conservation district planning documents, sources of second year funding/in-kind services, etc.).
- ✓ Proposal shows the capacity of the district to provide urban and community conservation technical assistance will be enhanced.
- ✓ Proposal demonstrates methods of project visibility and promotion.
- ✓ Information is provided in ALL the sections listed under Proposal Guidelines and within the 500 word count for each.

6. PROJECT REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Grant awardees are required to submit quarterly reports to NACD demonstrating progress on the project and detailing all expenses to date. For uniformity, NACD will provide the report template at the beginning of the project.

In addition, applicant must be willing to be interviewed post-project (i.e. six months to a year) about the long-term viability.

7. USDA NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not

all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- 1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- 2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- 3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

PROPOSALS MUST BE SUBMITTED IN PDF VIA EMAIL BY 11:59PM LOCAL TIME ON MAY 14, 2017 TO NACD AT deb-bogar@nacdn.net.

¹As stated in the NACD Bylaws, the term Conservation District shall refer to those entities of state, tribal and U.S. affiliated island governments such as territories, commonwealths and freely associated states in the Caribbean and Pacific Rim established in response to the standard soil conservation districts act originally distributed in 1937. This may also include other entities, such as the District of Columbia, which, in the opinion of the Board of Directors of NACD, have directly evolved from the standard soil conservation district act. These entities may be, known variously as Soil Conservation Districts, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Conservation Districts, Natural Resources Conservation Districts, Natural Resource Districts, Resource Conservation Districts, or some other name.

² The traditionally underserved client base reaches across human demographics and includes a diverse group of people who have not traditionally received services from conservation districts and their partners. They may be low-income residents of urban areas or underserved minority agricultural producers. Sometimes they are immigrant or non-English-speaking populations seeking a foothold in rural or urban settings. The traditionally underserved include women operators and landowners, and urban dwellers who find succor in community gardening projects and natural areas preservation. They are children reached with distinctive outreach and education efforts that districts do so well.

³While there are many ways to define a food desert, the Healthy Food Financing Initiative (HFFI) Working Group considers a food desert as a low-income census tract where a substantial number or share of residents has low access to a supermarket or large grocery store. To qualify as low-income, census tracts must meet the Treasury Department's New Markets Tax Credit (NMTC) program eligibility criteria. Furthermore, to qualify as a food desert tract, at least 33 percent of the tract's population or a minimum of 500 people in the tract must have low access to a supermarket or large grocery store." An interactive map for food deserts is available at www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/food-access-research-atlas/go-to-the-atlas.aspx.



NACD URBAN AGRICULTURE CONSERVATION INITIATIVE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS March 13, 2017

NACD and NRCS have teamed up to help districts and their partners provide much needed conservation technical assistance for urban agriculture in predominantly developed and developing areas. Through NRCS' support, the NACD Urban and Community RPG has created an Urban Agriculture Conservation grants initiative that will provide funding for a technical staff person in approximately 20 districts for one year.

This list was prepared to help answer many of the common questions. After reviewing the Request for Proposal (RFP), contact Debra Bogar at deb-bogar@nacdnet.org if you don't find your answer here. **As additional questions come in, they will be added to this document and posted on NACD's website.**

Who is eligible to submit a proposal?

Only conservation districts as defined by the NACD Bylaws (explained in the RFP footnote) are eligible to submit a proposal and oversee the project. Partners and supporters are strongly encouraged.

What are examples of "developed or predominantly developing land use along with a special emphasis on underserved areas"?

Applicants should describe the area and population they plan to serve through the grant. If an applicant can make a convincing case that the area (of any size, including an individual neighborhood) is developed or predominantly developed, the review panel will use that information to make their evaluation. The Initiative is open to all areas of the U.S and territories, though special consideration will be given to those that address underserved populations especially in 'food deserts'. An interactive map for food deserts is available at www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/food-access-research-atlas/go-to-the-atlas.aspx.

Are projects limited to cities?

No, developed and predominantly developing land is occurring across the entire country. It isn't the size of the area that is most important; it's the need of the community(ies).

What are examples of underserved populations?

Underserved populations are those diverse groups of people who have not traditionally received services from conservation districts and their partners. Examples include but are not limited to low-income residents of urban areas or underserved minority urban agricultural producers, immigrant or non-English-speaking populations seeking a foothold in rural or urban settings, urban dwellers who find support in community gardening projects, and women in urban agriculture.

Is this initiative part of current state NRCS initiatives?

No.

Are applicants required to apply for the full amount (\$50K)?

No. Applicants may apply for however much they feel is needed to accomplish the project and to allow it to continue after the initial grant with the support of the community and partners.

Is there a requirement to match the grant funds?

Yes. There is a 25% match of the total NACD funds requested, which can be provided through cash and/or in-kind services. Examples of in-kind include donated materials, value of District board members' time at \$500 per day and volunteers' time at \$23.56 per hour (from Independent Sector), free advertising, etc.

Is there a limit on the amount of grant used for salary?

No. The only budget limits apply to equipment and supplies (no more than 10%) and administrative (no more than 5%). Salary and benefits are up to the applicant. Note a key evaluation criteria is how the position will be sustained after the initial grant funding.

Can we hire a part-time person?

Yes, as well as contractor(s), as long as the focus is on conservation technical assistance.

If the grant funds are to be used to support staff, then does the sustainability expectation require maintaining that position?

The proposal needs to show how conservation technical assistance for urban agriculture will continue in future years, whether through staff, contractors or other creative ideas.

What is Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA)?

Conservation technical assistance is the help (design and on-the-ground) provided to individuals, communities, organizations and agencies to address opportunities, concerns, and problems related to the use of natural resources in order to help them make sound management decisions on private, tribal, and other non-federal lands. Examples of CTA are available through NRCS online at www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/programs/technical/cta/?cid=nrcs143_008365 or www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/technical/cp/.

What are examples of eligible CTA activities?

- Providing conservation technical consultation to urban agriculture operations, groups and individuals
- Providing conservation technical assistance to developing and existing urban agriculture projects to encourage inclusion of conservation practices in the project implementation
- Hosting conservation workshops and/or practice implementation demonstrations (e.g. nutrient management, water management, soil health, high tunnels, invasive plants, pest management, pollinator habitat, conservation systems, etc.); grant funds can be used to reimburse cost associated with speakers, venue and materials directly associated with the conservation practice presentation
- Encouraging land managers to work with NRCS and Districts to develop conservation plans.
- Upon request, developing conservation plans that address the natural resource concerns of the decision maker
- Promoting NRCS conservation technical assistance, financial assistance and easement programs to groups engaged in urban agriculture
- Coordinating training sessions for groups and individuals who wish to learn more about the technical tools that have been developed by USDA and could aid in sustainable urban agricultural production (Web Soil survey, FOTG, Conservation Client Gateway, Plants Database, Know Your Farmer Know Your Food, national agricultural library, etc.)
- Meeting with groups and land managers, including representatives of other units of government to educate them on the NRCS conservation planning process

- Developing and disseminating conservation related materials (fact sheets, articles, signs, posters, NRCS contact information, etc.) targeted to urban agriculture producers

Can the proposed project be part of an existing initiative?

The grant objective is to increase conservation technical assistance. If the funds will be used to enhance the existing initiative, and not to replace current resources, then it would be eligible though it will have to compete with proposals for new initiatives.

Can funds be used to purchase land for urban agriculture/garden plots?

No. The funds are to be used for conservation technical assistance.

Can the funds be used for tree planting in a city or village park?

As the funds are to be used for conservation technical assistance for urban agriculture, they could be used to leverage federal tree planting programs such as those through the USDA Forest Service including selecting appropriate trees for a fruit or nut tree grove that will be open to public harvest and ensuring appropriate planting. The 10% limit on supplies and equipment likely precludes the purchase of the actual grove trees.

Would the development of an urban ag education program to be presented in schools qualify as technical assistance?

Yes, as it could fall under the 'coordinating training sessions' though it will compete with other proposals that may result in more proactive urban agriculture conservation support for underserved populations.

What types of equipment or supplies can be purchased?

Since the Initiative focus is to provide local technical assistance, funds for equipment and supplies are limited to 10%. Up to 10% can be used for computer, office supplies, lab fees, soil testing, permits, planting and irrigation tools, signs, promotional materials, etc and should be listed in the proposal. Additional funds for these should be sought elsewhere.

Can funds be used for cost-share to help cover the cost of on-the-ground practices?

Since this Initiative focus is to provide technical assistance, grant funds cannot be used to cost-share conservation practices and projects.

Does the NRCS Technical Manual have practices specific to urban agriculture?

While not listed as 'urban agriculture', many of the practices for soil health and water management are appropriate and would just be done on a smaller scale.

Are other resources available?

Many reports and articles can be found by Googling 'urban agriculture'. The USDA Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food website provides an Urban Agriculture Toolkit and webinar recording at www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/knowyourfarmer?navid=kyf-urban-agric.

Who are potential partners?

Applicants are encouraged to seek beyond traditional partners, particularly those in the community who can help sustain the project beyond the initial grant funding. Some examples include businesses, medical community, colleges, churches, and nonprofits including current

community gardens. Specific examples can be found in past NACD Urban and Community Conservation webinars (www.nacdnet.org/policy/urban/webinars) and NACD's 2014 'Helping Underserved Clients' report (www.nacdnet.org/resources/reports).

Can the district subcontract with another entity to complete the project?

Yes, though this approach will likely rank lower. While partnering is encouraged to achieve project sustainability, one goal of this Initiative is to enhance district capacity to provide conservation technical assistance in urban and community areas. Passing the project to another entity may not achieve this goal.

Can the funds be transferred to a lead partner of the project?

Districts must maintain control of the funds and thus are advised to reimburse partners for approved tasks on a regular schedule.

Can districts partner with their state association?

Yes, as long as a lead district submits the application and oversees the project.

What are examples of national showcasing?

Some examples within NACD include presentations at regional and national meetings, presenting on an Urban and Community Conservation webinar, posting on the NACD Urban and Community Conservation Network on Facebook, posting on the NACD Blog. Applicants can also consider showcasing within other national organizations.

What if we can't get long-term funding committed before the proposal deadline? Can we still apply with tentative commitments?

It is not necessary to have long-term funding committed for the application. However, applicants will need to show community support and potential partners.

Is there an application form or required format?

The categories are provided in the RFP as subsections of the Proposal Guidelines along with word count limits. All categories need to be included in the proposal or it will be pulled from the review process. Any text over the 500 word limit per section will NOT be considered by the Selection Team.

How will proposals be evaluated?

A separate review and selection team will use the following criteria:

- Project provides technical support to conservation aspects of urban agriculture as defined by the USDA National Agriculture Library and stated in the above Initiative Summary.
- Project addresses the needs of underserved populations with details as to how this will be done.
- Project is designed at conservation district or multi-conservation district level.
- Proposal is signed off or approved by each involved conservation district board via an adopted resolution. Potential conflicts of interest are acknowledged and addressed according to state requirements.
- Proposal provides up to 5 letters of community support from an array of partners, especially nontraditional such as private sector and nonprofits.

- Proposal shows proof of project sustainability (e.g. inclusion in conservation district planning documents, sources of second year funding/in-kind services, etc.).
- Proposal shows the capacity of the district to provide urban and community conservation technical assistance will be enhanced.
- Proposal demonstrates methods of project visibility and promotion.
- Information is provided in ALL the sections listed under Proposal Guidelines and within the 500 word count for each.

When will the funds be provided to the awardees...upfront or reimbursed?

If the funds are available to NACD, the first \$5K will be sent to each awardee soon after the selection. The remaining funds will be sent in the fall of 2017.

What happens if we can't complete the grant work within the allotted time? Can the timeline be extended? Do we have to repay the money?

Applicants are strongly encouraged to complete the grant funded portion of the project within the proposed timeline. Extensions will be considered on a case by case basis.

Is a signature of approval required for the proposal?

Instead of a signature, a resolution adopted by the district board must be submitted in writing stating the board has reviewed and approved the proposal and has addressed potential conflicts of interest.

Will federal grant regulations apply?

Yes. Regulations applying to federal grants must be followed as do any state regulations and requirements (e.g. conflict of interest policies, accounting practices, etc).

Our district received an Urban Agriculture Conservation grant the first round in 2016. Are we eligible to apply for this one?

No.



**Joint Business Plan/
Plan of Operations**

Tulsa County Conservation District #2

&

**Natural Resources Conservation Service
Tulsa Field Office**

July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017

Personnel

Conservation District Directors

Zach Kilburn	Chairman
Vacant	
John Beasley	Member
Melissa Gray	Member
Jana Black	Member

Positions not yet Assigned

Vice Chair
Treasurer

Associate Conservation District Directors

Craig Thurmond

District Personnel

Gabriel Parker	District Secretary
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Natural Resources Conservation Service Personnel

Cleon Bradford	Acting District Conservationist
Freddy Trujillo	Soil Conservation Technician

District Board Meetings

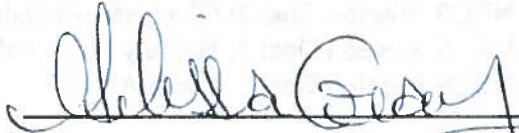
The Tulsa County Conservation District holds a regular Board Meeting on the second Thursday of every month at 4 p.m. at 6660 S Sheridan Rd Suite 120. Meetings are held at the district office and are open to the public.

Approval Page

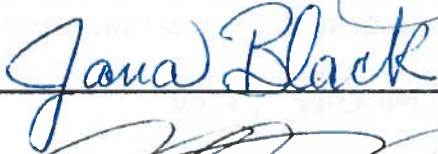
Zach Kilburn, Chairman



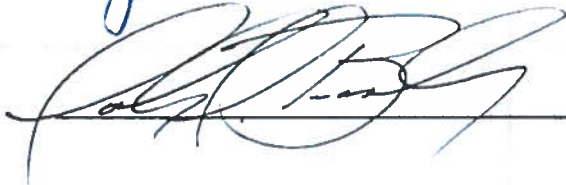
Melissa Gray, Member



Jana Black, Member



John Beasley Member
(Not Yet Assigned)



Member, Vacant

Joint Plan of Operations **June 30, 2016 – July 1, 2017**

GOAL # 1: INFORM AND EDUCATE THE PUBLIC IN TULSA COUNTY

NRCS Mission Goal 1: High Quality, Productive Soils

NRCS Mission Goal 2: Clean and Abundant Water

NRCS Mission Goal 3: Healthy Plant and Animal Communities

NRCS Mission Goal 4: Clean Air

OBJECTIVE # 1: Conduct public information campaign to make county residents aware of NRCS and District programs and services.

Action Items:	Number	Who	When	Progress
1. Publicize timely news articles regarding conservation practices, program sign-up periods, and other information of interest to county residents	As available	DC/DS	As available	
2. Provide conservation information at Tulsa Farm Show	1 exhibit	DC/DS/Volunteers	December	
3. Provide a conservation display at the Tulsa Home and Garden Show	1 exhibit	DC/DS/Volunteers	March	
4. Promote Backyard Conservation Program	At booth exhibits	DC/DS	Throughout the year	

7. Promote Tulsa Land Judging Event with Tulsa Community College	1 event	DC/TCC staff	April	
10. Participate in the M.e.t.'s Downtown Environmental Expo, when possible	1 event	DM/DS	April	
11. Assist educators with outdoor classrooms	As Requested	DC/SC	As requested	

Objective #2: Conserve & Improve Water Quality through the Implementation of the Tulsa County Blue Thumb Water Quality Education Program

Action Items:	Number	Who	When	Progress
1. Conduct water quality assessments on Tulsa County streams	14 Stream Sites	Blue Thumb staff/ /Volunteers	As needed	
2. Monitor Blue Thumb stream testing sites monthly to establish database	14 Stream Sites	Blue Thumb staff/DS Volunteers	When Available	
3. Conduct habitat assessments & fish collections	As needed	Blue Thumb staff/DS/Volunteers	Summer, when needed and available	
4. Conduct macroinvertebrate collections	14 Streams	Blue Thumb staff/DS/Volunteers	Winter Summer, when needed and available	
5. Conduct macroinvertebrate subsampling	14 Streams	Blue Thumb staff/DS/Volunteers	Spring Fall, when needed and available	

6. Test for Blue Thumb stream sites for coliform bacteria	4 samples each month	Blue Thumb staff/Volunteers	May-August when needed and available	
7. Cooperate with Oklahoma Blue Thumb and Earth Team Volunteers to conduct QA session	Quarterly AM and PM sessions	Blue Thumb staff/DS/Volunteers	January April July November, when needed and available	
8. Conduct an annual Blue Thumb training session	1 session	Blue Thumb staff /DS	September, when needed and available	

GOAL # 3 – PROVIDE OUTREACH TO UNDERSERVED GROUPS, TRADITIONAL AGRICULTURAL GROUPS, AND CLIENTS

NRCS Mission Goal 1: High Quality, Productive Soils

NRCS Mission Goal 2: Clean and Abundant Water

NRCS Mission Goal 3: Healthy Plant and Animal Communities

NRCS Mission Goal 4: Clean Air

NRCS Mission Goal 6: Working Farm and Ranch Lands (Urban Sprawl)

OBJECTIVE # 1: Hold meetings and make special efforts to work with the general public in Tulsa County

Action Items:	Number	Who	When	Progress
1. Resource Management Conference	1	All Staff/ Directors	As available	
2. Conduct local work group meeting	1	DC/DS	November	
3. Tulsa State Fair exhibit	1	All Staff/ Volunteers/ Directors	October	

4. Home and Garden Show exhibit	1	All Staff/ Volunteers/ Directors	March	
5. M.e.t's Environmental Expo exhibit, as available	1	DS/Volunteers	April	
7. Tulsa Farm Show exhibit	1	DS/DC	December	
8. Submit timely conservation program news, articles, stories, and announcements	6	DS/DC	As created	
9. Locally led meetings conducted for inventorying citizen resource concerns	2	DM/DS	September October	
11. Provide Community service hours for students needing credit for scholarships, funding or awards	As needed	DM/DS	As needed	
12. Attend Environmental Education Committee meetings, when available	12	DS	TBA	
13. Conduct an annual educational Volunteer Appreciation Dinner	1	All staff/Directors	When Available	
14. Cultivate	2 Tribes	DC/ Directors	As needed	

partnerships with Native American Tribes				
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Goal # 4 – IMPLEMENT AVAILABLE PROGRAMS TO ADDRESS LOCALLY IDENTIFIED RESOURCE CONCERNS

NRCS Mission Goal 1: High Quality, Productive Soils

NRCS Mission Goal 2: Clean and Abundant Water

NRCS Mission Goal 3: Healthy Plant and Animal Communities

NRCS Mission Goal 4: Clean Air

NRCS Mission Goal 5: An Adequate Energy Supply

NRCS Mission Goal 6: Working Farm and Ranch Lands (Urban Sprawl)

OBJECTIVE # 1: Fully utilize funding from State and USDA programs to address conservation concerns

Action Items:	Number	Who	When	Progress
1. Evaluate current ranking criteria and make necessary changes for EQIP implementation	1	DM/DS/DC	October	
2. Evaluate current ranking criteria and make necessary changes for State Cost-share Program	1	DM/DS/DC	As CSP Year begins	
3. Hold and conduct sign-up for State Cost-share Program	1	DM/DS	After Item 2	
4. Conduct rankings and evaluations for State Cost-share Program	8	DM/DS/DC	After Item 3	
5. Complete conservation plans on accepted State Cost-share Program applications	5	DM/DC/SC	After Item 4	
6. Complete status reviews on all 2014 Farm bill contracts within required deadline dates	15	DM/DC	September January	

GOAL # 5 – EFFICIENTLY AND EFFECTIVELY MANAGE THE LOCAL OFFICE TO IMPLEMENT THE CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP

NRCS Mission Goal 2: Clean and Abundant Water

NRCS Mission Goal 3: Healthy Plant and Animal Communities

NRCS Mission Goal 4: Clean Air

NRCS Mission Goal 5: An Adequate Energy Supply

NRCS Mission Goal 6: Working Farm and Ranch Lands (Urban Sprawl)

OBJECTIVE # 1: Utilize Team, District, NRCS and other partners to direct the local conservation program

Action Items:	Number	Who	When	Progress
1. Update conservation needs assessment to reflect locally led meeting input and resource concern changes occurring in Tulsa county	1	DC/DS	February	
2. Attend/Conduct Team meetings to address localized concerns	4	Staff, as available	August November March June	
3. Complete HEL/WC compliance reviews in a timely manner and submit required reports to the State Office	1	DS/DC	October	
4. Update practices quarterly in Share Point as required	4	DC	October January April July	
5. Schedule Resource Specialist to complete conservation planning review	2	DS/DC	Whenever	
6. Attempt to utilize at least 1 Earth Team Volunteer to assist with the local conservation program	3	DC/DS	As needed	
7. Cooperate with Tulsa Volunteer Center in Volunteer recruitment	1 cooperative agreement	Directors/DS	On going	
8. Encourage	10 assists	DS/All staff	As needed	

cooperation and provide assistance to Units of Government				
9. Work with agencies to emphasize and coordinate conservation activities	8 activities	DS/All staff	As needed	
10. Assist with U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service with "Partners for Wildlife Program"	1 assist	DS/DC/SC	As needed	
11. Assist Tulsa County Commissioners and Staff with Emergency Watershed Protection	1 project	DS/DC/SC	As Needed	

Objective # 2: Conserve Soil and Water Resources through Implementation of State Cost Share Program

Action Items:	Number	Who	When	Progress
1. Designate District & Technical Representatives	2	DC and TCCD Chair	December	
2. Select Approved Cost Share Practices	As offered	Board of Directors	As CSPY guidelines are released	
3. Develop Evaluation	1	Board of Directors	After Item 2	
4. Determine & approve applicant cost-share rate	1	Board of Directors	After Item 3	
5. Determine & Approve maximum cost share payment	1	Board of Directors	After Item 4	
6. Determine & Approve application period	Monthly	Board of Directors	Monthly	
7. Advertise Cost Share Program	Multiple	All staff	When funding becomes available	

Objective # 3: Provide assistance to OCC, OACD and other conservation districts

Action Items:	Number	Who	When	Progress
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1. Assist other conservation districts with environmental education events	As offered	DS	As needed, and available	
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GOAL # 6 – PROMOTE USDA AND STATE CIVIL RIGHTS POLICIES AND OBSERVE DIVERSITY RECOGNITION CELEBRATIONS

NRCS Mission Goal 2: Clean and Abundant Water
NRCS Mission Goal 3: Healthy Plant and Animal Communities
NRCS Mission Goal 4: Clean Air
NRCS Mission Goal 5: An Adequate Energy Supply
NRCS Mission Goal 6: Working Farm and Ranch Lands (Urban Sprawl)

OBJECTIVE # 1: Discuss and abide by Federal, State and Local civil rights policies in the Tulsa Conservation District

Action Items:	Number	Who	When	Progress
1. Update and maintain required civil rights posters and displays	1	DC/DS	October	
2. Ensure and maintain handicapped accessibility in the Tulsa Field Office	1	DC	October	
3. Review PRS parity reports on a quarterly basis to ensure that all clients in Tulsa County are receiving equal and fair assistance	4	DC	October January April July	
4. Discuss the Cooperative Working Agreement between NRCS, OCC and TCCD at the February Board Meeting	1	DC	February	
5. Discuss and encourage employee participation in civil rights activities and special observance during designated months	5	DC/SC	October November January February September	
6. Include the non-discrimination statement on all documents meant for public distribution	12	All staff	September	
7. Discuss NRCS policies regarding Titles VI and VII of	4	DC	November February	

the CRA, sexual harassment, workplace violence and outreach with staff members quarterly staff meetings			May August	
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GOAL # 7 – UTILIZE DISTRICT RESOURCES TO BENEFIT CONSERVATION

NRCS Mission Goal 2: Clean and Abundant Water

NRCS Mission Goal 3: Healthy Plant and Animal Communities

NRCS Mission Goal 4: Air Quality

NRCS Mission Goal 5: An Adequate Energy Supply

NRCS Mission Goal 6: Working Farm and Ranch Lands (Urban Sprawl)

OBJECTIVE # 1: Operate and maintain district equipment and programs to apply conservation practices in Tulsa County

Action Items:	Number	Who	When	Progress
1. Ensure district inventory of Blue Thumb chemicals and supplies is adequate to address the need for monitoring water quality.	1	DS	As needed	
2. Ensure that district inventory of storm drain stenciling materials is adequate.	1	DS	As needed while supplies last	
3. Purchase supplies necessary to complete the goals of the Conservation District board	As needed	DS	As needed	

OBJECTIVE # 2 – Efficiently manage district financial resources according to state policy in Tulsa County

Action Items:	Number	Who	When	Progress
1. Execute District Financial audit to ensure integrity and conform to state requirements.	1	DM/DS	July	
2. Keep financial and payroll account current accurate	1	DM/DS	July	

OBJECTIVE # 3 – Efficiently manage district human resources to accomplish priority objectives

Action Items:	Number	Who	When	Progress
1. Conduct employee performance reviews on an annual basis to ensure adequate accomplishments	1	Board of Director's	March	

OBJECTIVE # 4 – Maintain District Director membership according to Oklahoma State Laws

Action Items:	Number	Who	When	Progress
1. Conduct elections for District Director positions that expire this fiscal year	As needed	All staff	March	
2. Take necessary steps to reappoint District Director positions that expire this fiscal year	As needed	DS	March	
3. Maintain a list of eligible and interested potential directors	1	DS	March	

OBJECTIVE # 5 – Maintain and improve legislative efforts.

Action Items:	Number	Who	When	Progress
1. Directors attend legislative days and events	3	Directors	As needed	
2. Increase legislative correspondence	As needed	All staff/Directors	As needed	



Tulsa County Conservation District

Long Range Plan July 2014 – June 2019

6660 S. Sheridan Rd., Suite 120

Tulsa, OK 74133

(918) 488 - 1845

Fax (918)280 - 1594

tulsaccd@conservation.ok.gov

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Tulsa County Conservation District
Certificate of Long Range Plan Adoption

We, the Board of Directors of the Tulsa County Conservation District now in this session this _____ day of _____, 2014, do hereby approve the following document known as the Tulsa County Conservation District Long Range Plan July 2014 to June 2019. As evidence of our adoption and final approval, we do here affix our signatures to this document and certify that a public hearing was held _____, 2014 for review of this Plan.

John Beasley, Chairman

Scott VanLoo, Vice Chair

Roy Foster, Secretary/Treasurer

Craig Thurmond, Member

Zach Kilburn, Member

Subscribed and sworn to before me this _____ day of _____, 2014

Gabriael Parker, District Secretary, Notary Public

My Commission Expires

Commission #

(Seal)

Organization of the Tulsa County Conservation District

A political subdivision of the State of Oklahoma – authorities, powers, and structure contained in O.S. 27A.

The Tulsa County Conservation District is a local legal subdivision of the state organized under the Conservation District Law in 1937 and was later amended. The district is responsible for carrying out a program of conservation of all natural resources on land within its boundaries.

Tulsa County is the second most populous county in the State of Oklahoma. As of the 2010 census, the population was 603,403. The county encompasses 587 square miles, approximately 376,000 acres.

Tulsa County Conservation District Mission Statement, Vision & Values

Mission Statement:

To promote environmental stewardship amongst citizens of Tulsa County through urban and agricultural conservation planning, education outreach, and technical assistance.

Vision Statement:

To become recognized as Tulsa County's leading organization in urban and agricultural natural resource conservation issues.

Values:

- Provide sound conservation technical assistance to land owners
- Implement sustainable urban land conservation programs
- Improve quality of life
- Protect urban watersheds
- Enhance partnerships with other urban conservation agencies and organizations
- Engage the public and elected or appointment representatives on urban conservation issues
- Continuing education for and professional development of TCCD staff and volunteers

Inventory of Renewable Natural Resources

Topography

The dominant ecoregion in Tulsa County is Central Irregular Plains, specifically known as the Cherokee Plains. This ecoregion is marked by flat to gently sloping plains and broad valleys. The surface is largely Quaternary alluvium and decomposition residuum of fine sandy-, silty-, and clayey texture; underlain by Pennsylvanian-age shale and sandstone with minor amounts of limestone. Perennial streams are common and typically have firm clay and mud substrates though occasional gravel riffles occur. The Central Irregular Plains are mostly cropland; also rangeland. Riparian areas are wooded. Soybeans, wheat, alfalfa hay, and sorghum are major crops. Cattle and broiler chickens are the main farm products.

The western portion of the county lies within the Crosstimbers ecoregion. This topography includes rolling hills, cuestas, and ledges. Stream flow varies from year to year, and season to season. Shallow streams with sandy substrates are typical, but many streams have deep pools, riffles of cobble and gravel substrates. The Crosstimbers are woodland, grassland, rangeland, pastureland, and limited cropland. The main crops are small grains, grain sorghum, hay, and soybeans. Abandoned farmland is common. Fire suppression and passive land use have allowed the woodland distribution to greatly expand.

Extensive, but declining, oil fields occur.

Tulsa County is drained primarily by the Arkansas River. The Verdigris and Caney Rivers and their tributaries drain the northern portion of the county. The major tributary of the Verdigris River in Tulsa County is Bird Creek.

Climate

Average annual precipitation increases by as much as two inches across the county, with higher totals in the eastern portions. On average, the county receives approximately 40 inches of precipitation each year. April-June is almost always the wettest part of the year, but a secondary peak often occurs during September-October. Tulsa records snowfall almost every year, with about three years out of four having at least five inches.

Temperatures across the county are relatively uniform, with a mean near 61 degrees. Temperatures range from an average daytime high of 94 degrees in July to an average low of 26 degrees in January. Tulsa County averages a growing season of 220 days, but plants that can withstand short periods of colder temperatures may have as much as six additional weeks.

Winds across Tulsa County are predominantly from the west to southwest. Relative humidity averages range from 47% to 92%. Absolute humidity is considerably lower in the winter months and increases in the spring and summer. Winter months tend to have greater cloud cover than summer months. The percentage of possible sunny days ranges from an average of less than 50% in winter to an average of nearly 80% in summer.

Land Usage

As of 2012, Tulsa County had a population of 613,816. Ninety-five percent of the population is urban. Urban land use accounts for 46% of the total 364,800 acres in the county. Pastureland and rangeland are the other dominant land uses.

There are 12 cities located at least partially in Tulsa County:

Bixby	Lotsee
Broken Arrow	Owasso
Collinsville	Sand Springs
Glenpool	Skiatook
Jenks	Sperry
Liberty	Tulsa

Crop inventory for Tulsa County for 2012:

- Soybeans: 4200 acres planted
- Wheat: 2500 acres planted
- Hay: 35,000 acres harvested
- Orchards: 5500 acres (primarily pecan)

Livestock estimates in Tulsa County for 2013:

- Cattle: 19,000 head
- Hogs: Fewer than 300 head
- Poultry: 2,500 birds
- Sheep: 600 head

Nearly 14,000 unwanted pets (cats and dogs) are collected by the City of Tulsa's Animal Control each year. Feral cats, in particular, can have an adverse effect on the native bird and small mammal populations

Trends Impacting Tulsa County

- Demographic transition to an urban state
- Suburban sprawl
- Eutrophication due to lawn fertilizer
- Herbicide and insecticide use in urban landscape management
- Erosion and siltation associated with urban development
- Introduction of invasive species
- Urban forestry
- Protection of threatened and endangered species
- Increased usage of fossil fuels
- Formation of tropospheric ozone

Strategies to Address Trends

- Administer the State Conservation Cost-Share Program
- Promote NRCS Conservation Agreements and Plans
- Host Annual Resource Management Conferences
- Assist TACF on urban beautification/restoration projects
- Educate and inform local legislators on urban conservation issues
- Work with and assist similar municipal agencies and community organizations
- Update interested citizens with a quarterly newsletter
- Organize neighborhood creek cleanup and watershed education events
- Provide conservation education and outreach programs
- Conduct National Resource Day education events
- Provide outdoor classroom assistance
- Develop lesson plans for teacher education
- Create education displays for events

Critical Geographic Areas

Map currently unavailable

Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. **Water Quality.** Non-point water pollution from urban and suburban stormwater runoff impacts all streams in Tulsa County.
2. **Soil Erosion.** Urban development has led to loss of arable lands as well as contributing to siltation in streams throughout the County.
3. **Public Education.** Area school districts, especially Tulsa Public Schools, lack adequate offerings of environmentally related classes.
4. **Open Urban Space.** Several agencies and organizations are now looking to make improvements to Tulsa's open spaces, giving new focus on urban conservation.
5. **Suburban Sprawl.** As Oklahoma's urban population is now the majority, citizens are less connected, and less informed, relating to environmental issues.

Natural Resource Priorities and Goals

1. **Water Quality**
Continue to grow the Tulsa County Blue Thumb Project. Educate citizens, land developers, and area legislators through appropriate Annual Resource Management Conferences. Hold multiple Creek Cleanups each year. Sponsor and coordinate Oklahoma Blue Thumb training and volunteer support. Assist local municipalities with their Stormwater Management Plan. Develop Conservation plans with assistance of NRCS through the State Conservation Cost Share Program. Create an informational booth about the protection of local watersheds for display at home and garden shows, Tulsa State Fair, etc.
2. **Soil Erosion**
Continue to educate land owners, the general public, and local legislators on erosion and siltation issues. Develop and implement Conservation Plans with technical assistance from NRCS and the State Conservation Cost Share Program. Host an appropriate Annual Resource Management Conference.
3. **Public Education**
Raise public awareness of TCCD, TACF, and OCC through marketing via visible urban conservation projects, conservation activism, and through press releases and social media. Increase education outreach with schools, civic groups, and legislators. Plan Natural Resource Day Education Events. Outdoor Classroom Assistance for local public and private schools. Hold Teacher/Educator Workshops. Increase circulation of the

and private schools. Hold Teacher/Educator Workshops. Increase circulation of the TCCD Newsletter. Setup displays for Creek Cleanups. Promote Oklahoma Blue Thumb Project. Develop a larger volunteer base. Create an informational booth for display at home and garden shows, Tulsa State Fair, Tulsa Zoo, and other public venues. Partner with other agencies and organizations. Implement TACF urban beautification and conservation projects.

4. Open Urban Spaces

"Adopt" open spaces, riparian zones, roadway medians, and rights-of-way for rain gardens of native perennial grasses and wildflowers. Outdoor Classroom Assistance for local public and private schools. Develop and maintain education gardens at A Gathering Place.

5. Suburban Sprawl

Conduct a public education campaign on appropriate fertilizer and pesticide usage in lawn maintenance. Hold an appropriate Annual Resource Management Conference. Protect agricultural lands from encroachment through Conservation Plans and the State Conservation Cost Share Program. Advocate for conservation easements and "green zones" along sensitive riparian zones.

Education Priorities & Goals

As addressed in the previous sections, *Mission, Vision, and Values Statements & Natural Resource Priorities and Goals*, education is a major component of operations at TCCD. Recent trends in urban sustainability have created a receptive audience for urban conservation issues. This office believes that through skillful public education, and subsequent public support, we can enhance the role of TCCD, TACF, and OCC in Tulsa County.

Amongst proposed education programs:

Provide new, innovative teacher education workshops based on established programs such as Projects WET & WILD, Aldo Leopold, Spirit of the Last, Great Places, etc.

Develop and implement brief programs, presentations, and activities for students K-12, scouts, church youth groups, etc. Conduct macroinvertebrate collections/habitat assessment/fish collections at area schools.

Present informational and education displays at events such as Tulsa State Fair, home and garden shows, home owner association meetings, and other environmental events. The programs will highlight impacts of urban land usage and conservation.

Focus on communication with Tulsa County's decision makers. Raise awareness amongst City, County, and State agencies, administrators, and legislators on TCCD's conservation projects and OCC's environmental and economic impacts on Tulsa County.

Continue to assist the State and County Blue Thumb Programs and the Oklahoma Blue Thumb Association by increasing the number of volunteers, providing local support of training, providing assistance to Blue Thumb volunteers, hosting QA meetings, and providing any other support requested by Blue Thumb.

from social media sites. Develop a more appropriate website that addresses and enhances our Mission and Vision Statements.

Proposed Long-Range Budget Needs

To fulfill the ambitious goals of the Tulsa County Conservation District requires three full-time positions. Those position with brief description are listed below.

District Manager. Manages day-to-day office operations. District representative to the Board of Directors. Liaison to local, county, and state legislators. Coordinates projects with other agencies. News Releases. Contribute to *County Line* newsletter. \$13.98/hour.

Conservation Program Specialist. Implement TCCD and TACF projects. Volunteer coordinator. Educational presentations. Update websites and social media for TCCD and TACF. \$11.00/hour.

District Secretary. Handles day-to-day office operations. Create and distribute *County Line* newsletter. \$10.50/hour.

DM	\$29,023
CPS	\$22,836
DS	\$21,798

Cost Share	\$12,000	
Education and Informational Programs		\$7,500
Operating Expenses	\$6,600	

Total \$99,757

Total 5-year request based on current levels: \$498,785

March 9, 2017

This Week in Conservation



This is an internal newsletter intended for Conservation Commission and conservation district staff, directors, and partners.



Successful State Meeting!

I want to thank everyone who attended the 2017 state meeting. I do believe that of all the state meetings I have attended this was the best, from start to finish. I especially want to recognize those who helped organize and execute the event. As each of you know from your local natural resource days, banquets, field days and educational events these meetings don't just happen. It takes months of planning and lots of hard work by many different people. If I tried to name everyone I know I would leave someone out. But just think of all the partners who contributed. **OACD, OACDE, NRCS, OCC, The Nature Conservancy, EPA, OSU, USFWS, The Noble Foundation, OACD Auxiliary, NACD, NASCA, ODAFF, Blue Thumb, Farmers Royalty, OPEA, OGIC, OETA, OU Water Center, OPA, OK Monarch Pollinator Coalition, USDA-ARS, Southern Plains Climate Hub, and Businesses and Organizations** providing sponsorships. Conservation in Oklahoma is truly a partnership. Conservation in Oklahoma is alive and well and flourishing. We have accomplished great things in the past and as long as each of us contributes our share we can reach our goals today and leave our children a better environment.

Our partners are standing with us. If you are not showing up and doing your part then you are letting people down. Conservation in Oklahoma is only as strong as the sum of the parts. Do your part in your local district and for the entire state. If you don't have a stream that runs in or out of your District then you can stand alone. If the wind and rain only fall on your land and not others then you can mind your own business.

The truth is we are all in this together. This week has shown me why I became a District Director and why I wanted this job.

Thanks to each of you!

Trey Lam
Executive Director
Oklahoma Conservation Commission



No Tiller Jimmy Emmons Steps Into OACD Presidency

At this year's OACD State meeting, Jimmy Emmons of Leedey, **Dewey CCD**, was voted in as this year's OACD President. Radio Oklahoma Ag Network Farm Director Ron Hays talked with Emmons about his reasons to serve in the leadership of the organization, as well as getting his views on a common worry of those not involved in using cover crops on their farmland: losing water in your soil because of growing the cover crop. Emmons told Hays that such worries have no basis in fact as studies show that cover crops lower the soil temperature and help build up the ability of the soil to "bank" moisture when it rains.

Conservation Calendar of Events



Date	Event	Location	District	Contact
3/21	Major County Soil Health Field Day	Fairview	Major CCD	580-227-4844 x-3
3/22	Dewey County cover crop plot tour	Leedey	Dewey CCD	580-328-5366
3/23	Web Soil Survey Workshop	Norman	Cleveland CCD	405-364-7319
3/29	NRCS Caddo County Soil Health Workshop	Eakley	West Caddo CD	405-247-3303
3/29	OACD RCPP Soil Health Field Day	Afton	Ottawa CCD	918-542-4576 x-3350
3/29	Ag Day at the Capitol	OKC	Oklahoma CCD	405-522-5560
3/30	OACD Campaign for Conservation @ the Capitol	OKC	Oklahoma CCD	517-763-8609



**Lisa Knauf Owen Receives
2017 OACDE President's Award**

Lisa Knauf Owen, assistant director of the Oklahoma Conservation Commission, was presented with the 2017 Oklahoma Association of Conservation District Employees (OACDE) President's award at the OACDE breakfast during the OACD State Meeting. The recognition reads:

The 2017 OACDE President's award goes to a person that should be called "Mother" to 85 conservation districts. She is dedicated daily never knowing where each days course will take her. She stands strong in guidance and directing district employee's in a wide gamut of issues. Please join me in honoring Lisa Knauf Owen our mentor and friend.

"I was humbled and honored to receive the President's Award from the Oklahoma Association of Conservation District Employees," says Lisa.

The plaque says: Thank you for being our mentor and friend, directing and supporting us daily in our conservation work in Oklahoma. You are our cheerleader and advocate.



**Congratulations to
Hal Clark, District
Director at
Cimarron CCD, for
50 Years of
service to the
district board and
to conservation!**

District Director Responsibilities: A 10-Minute Guide Series

Guide No. 21 - Duties of a Conservation District Public Official

The information presented in this guide is designed to help district directors better understand their role as a public official and assist them to be more effective in the development and implementation of conservation district programs.

Read the full guide.

The 10-Minute Guide Series is a series of informational topics designed to help conservation district directors become more informed and knowledgeable about their responsibilities. Directors are encouraged to review a guide before each board meeting, and then have a 10 minute discussion on it during the meeting. The series is available online here:

<http://bit.ly/258CtOT>

Join the Soil Health Producer Network



Do you want to try new conservation practices like no-till or cover crops to improve the yields and reduce inputs, but you're not sure how to get started?

Sign up for the Soil Health Producer Network today and connect with other ag producers interested in building healthy soils.

<http://www.okconservation.org/soil-health-producer-network>

Campaign for Conservation @ the Capitol
March 30



The Campaign for Conservation @ the Capitol

Join OACD Thursday, March 30th at 8:30 a.m. for the CCC "The Campaign for Conservation @ the Capitol." OACD is seeking representatives from every part of the state to help educate elected officials on the amazing work that conservation districts are doing in Oklahoma.

Area III Grant Victor Jr.

Grant Victor Jr. from Ottawa County has been involved in production agriculture for 45 years, growing wheat, oats, soybeans, grain sorghum and corn in Ottawa and Craig counties. He participates in the CSP and EQIP conservation programs and has been engaged in no-till farming methods for 16 years. "I have studied cover crops over the past several years and realize the potential for building my soils."



Meet Grant Victor Jr., OACD's newest Soil Health Producer! Grant is from Afton, Oklahoma, and was recently selected to establish a soil health demonstration farm for Area III.

Through OACD's Healthy Soils Program, Grant will incorporate cover crops into his agriculture operation in Ottawa and Craig counties.

"I have studied cover crops over the past several years and realize the potential for building my soils."

Learn more about OACD's Healthy Soils Program at www.okconservation.org/healthy-soils.

The Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts is a private, nonprofit organization representing conservation districts across the state and individual members dedicated to protecting our state's natural resources and improving the environment. For more information visit www.okconservation.org



Oklahoma Dams Discussed on Ch 5

After a night saturated with storms and rain, not to mention being in the wake of the Oroville dam emergency out west in California, Conservation Commission Executive Director, Trey Lam, knew the time was right to highlight Oklahoma's flood control structures. In this interview with ABC KOCO 5 he highlights the importance of Oklahoma's flood control structures and what's in place in Oklahoma to prevent dam emergencies (February 20).

<http://www.koco.com/article/what-s-in-place-in-oklahoma-to-prevent-dam-emergency/8956713>

Blue Thumb has a Blog!

Blue Thumb's new team member, Rob, has been collecting creek bugs with Kim, Candice and Jeri. Find out what he has learned in the latest edition of the new Blue Thumb Blog!

<http://www.bluethumbok.com/the-blue-thumb-blog>



Fish Fact: Freckled Madtom

Did you know there's a catfish whose maximum size is typically only 3 inches? The Freckled Madtom is found in Eastern OK waters. It gets its name from the black specks covering its body and poisonous spines it uses for defense, which hurt similar to a hornet sting (ask us how we know!). These fish are sensitive to siltation so are seldom found in turbid waters. This Freckled Madtom was caught in Fourche Maline Creek, Leflore Co OK.



What's My Soil's Story?

Find out by joining our **FREE**
Web Soil Survey Workshop



Cleveland CCD Offering Web Soil Survey Workshop

This FREE workshop will teach you how to navigate the Web Soil Survey website. This website provides interactive tools so you can access the most current soil information for your property. Soil surveys can be used by farmers, gardeners, and builders!

Check out the Web Soil Survey website here:

<https://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov/App/HomePage.htm>



Shirley Hudson, Ottawa CCD OACDE District Employee of the Year

The award recognizes how dedicated the conservation district employees are to serving their local boards and providing excellent service to the community they live in.

Shirley Hudson has been with the Ottawa CCD for over 25 years. She is a very devoted employee with the nomination coming from her whole board. She is very instrumental in the strong education program the district promotes. She is in charge of running the local office and does it in a friendly and professional manner. She has been active with the Oklahoma Association of Conservation District Employees serving several terms on the board. She proves to be dedicated to the NRCS partnership assisting in daily programs for landowners. She has worked with ten local tribes in education, grant writing, and fishing clinics.



Reach for the Soil at Fairview Field Day 3/21

Hear from the farmers who are reaping the rewards of soil health at the **Major County Soil Health Field Day on March 21, 2017 from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.** at Plymouth Valley Cellars south of Fairview. **RSVP by March 15.**

"Soil health is absolutely the key for Oklahoma farmers to maintain a competitive edge," said Michael Roberts, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) District Conservationist for Major County. "By letting the soil work for you rather than working the soil, producers are able to capture more water, suffer less erosion and grow healthier plants and livestock."

The field day will focus on practical application of soil health principals with presentations by Jimmy Emmons, Dewey County farmer, Jim Johnson, Noble Foundation soil and crop consultant, Willie Durham, NRCS soil health specialist, and soil scientists Steve Alspach and Greg Scott. Local conservation district, OSU Extension, USDA Farm Service Agency and NRCS staff will also be available.

Directions: From the intersection of State Highways 60 and 58, head south six miles, then go one mile east on County Road EW 58 and one-tenth mile north on County Road NS 255. The site is on the east side of the road. **Call 580-227-4844 extension 3 to RSVP or for more information.**



Soil Health Workshop in Eakly, Caddo County 3/29

Area producers are invited to learn more at a **soil health workshop on March 29, 2017 from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at the Eakly Community Center, downtown Eakly.** Call the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) field office in Caddo County at **405-247-3303 for more information.**

"Soil health is all about allowing the soil to work for you rather than constantly working the soil," said Danielle Metz, NRCS District Conservationist for Caddo County. "Mimicking nature by keeping soil covered with living plants and minimizing soil disturbance is a cost effective way to restore crop vigor and make farm and ranch operations more resilient to weather extremes."



Conservation Commission Offices Move

Now on 2nd floor of Agriculture building

All divisions of the Conservation Commission are now located on the second floor of the Department of Agriculture building in Oklahoma City. The agency hasn't resided under one roof since the early 1990's. Now the divisions of Water Quality; Office of Geographic Information; Financial Management and Human Resources; Abandoned Mine Lands; District Services; and Conservation Programs are all together.

The new address is:

**Oklahoma Conservation Commission
2800 N. Lincoln Blvd., Suite 200
Oklahoma City, OK 73105**

Come see us when you're in town!



Oklahoma Water Appreciation Day!

Join us at the Oklahoma State Capitol 4th floor rotunda **March 21** to learn how Oklahomans are managing, studying, and improving Oklahoma's water resources.



Be a Friend of Blue Thumb

Blue Thumb's non-profit foundation, Friends of Blue Thumb, has special offers for Districts.

Conservation Districts! Join "Friends of Blue Thumb" at a special discount rate! For a lifetime membership fee of \$75, conservation districts can be a part of the "Friends of Blue Thumb" nonprofit organization. About half of the conservation districts joined this group four years ago, and since that time they have been eligible for grants that focus on conservation education. This is your chance to be part of an organization that wants to support conservation districts and Blue Thumb volunteers as they strive toward clean streams and rivers. This offer is good through **March 31**.

Friends of Blue Thumb is offering mini-grants of \$100 to ten "friend" conservation districts this spring. Districts that will hold a natural resource day, participate in local Earth Day events, or otherwise be a part of a conservation education effort can request the funds. Some type of water conservation or water quality education effort is expected to be part of the deal. Send a proposal of no more than one page to Cheryl Cheadle if you want to be considered for a mini-grant. Checks will be provided to the successful districts after the event has taken place. More information will be provided to districts upon receipt of proposals, but also do NOT hesitate to email with questions. **One Week Remains!** Proposals are due by **March 17** to Cheryl at cherylc@camploughridge.org. Visit <https://facebook.com/bluethumbfriends>

Our Miracle Christmas Birth

By Frank Acker, Little River CD

The new addition to our family was welcomed into this world on Dec. 11, 2016, around 2 a.m.

Addison Faith Turpin's arrival, however, was anything other than usual.

Staci, our oldest daughter, was expecting her fourth child and first daughter. Being the mother of the Bonham Boyz, Reece 10, Jonah 8, and Titus 2, having another baby should have been routine for her. It was anything but...

Around midnight on the 11th, Staci woke her husband Rusty and told him she wasn't for sure, but thought maybe they should head for the birthing center in Sherman, Texas, which was 30 minutes away.

So Rusty jumped out of bed and gathered up the Bonham Boyz, who were still in their pajamas, and loaded them in the back seat of his four-door pickup. He told them that Mommy was ready to have her baby and that they may hear her make some strange and loud noises since they would be in the spare bedroom at the birthing center. Rusty then loaded up his very pregnant wife into the pickup and off they went.

Very soon after getting on the road, Staci told Rusty, "You might want to drive a little faster," so Rusty picked up a little speed.

A few minutes later, Rusty heard a splash like a water balloon bursting. Staci's water had broken. He picked up some more speed and asked her if she wanted him to pull over. "No, go faster."

The Bonham Boyz strapped in their car seats were in for the experience of their young lives.

Traveling down the road at a fairly rapid pace, Staci started making those strange and loud noises in the truck. I'm sure the boyz eyes were as large as saucers by then. Rusty looked over at his wife and to his amazement, he saw the head of the baby (how he kept the pickup on the road, we'll never know!)

On they went into the night, Staci making those loud and strange noises with a baby trying to come into this world, Rusty, flying down the highway, flashers going, and with the Bonham Boyz in the back seat, with eyes as large as saucers.

As they were entering the outskirts of Sherman, Staci screams, "Here she comes!" and out pops little Addison Faith.

Staci thought the hard part was over until that slick little baby girl slipped out of her hands into the floorboard of the pickup. "Oh my gosh!!!" With the baby screaming in the floorboard, a cool and calm Dad says, "Well, at least there's nothing wrong with her lungs."

Staci quickly scooped up the baby, kinda dusted her off the best she could and tried to get her into her lap but somehow or another the umbilical had become tangled around her leg, so the best Staci could do was to get Addison up to her knees.

About that time, Rusty comes wheeling into the birthing center. He jumps out and runs to the door. The staff opens it and asked where Staci was. He said, "Oh, her and our new baby are in the truck, can you come out and help us?"

They go out, bring everybody in, put the boyz to bed, do a quick check of Staci and Addison and pronounce that everything is OK.

Thank You Jesus for watching over them!!!

—Frank Acker





New Area II Commissioner Confirmed

Phil Campbell has been confirmed by the Senate Agricultural Committee to serve as the new **Conservation Commissioner** for **Area II** succeeding Mike Rooker. He will start serving his 5-year term July 1, 2017. Phil hails from Luther where he manages a 40 acre cow/calf operation following a 30 year Air Force career. He and his wife, Debra, have a son and two daughters.

PBAs Featured on SUNUP

The television show, SUNUP, recently featured a story on developing Prescribed Burn Associations around the State. The formation of PBAs demonstrates the importance of fire. See the video: <http://sunup.okstate.edu/category/seg/2017-first-half/020417-burn>



Cover Crops Recover Flooded Lands

A four-year study by the University of Missouri Extension researches the use of cover crops to benefit flooded soils. Read more at: <http://bit.ly/2mkZE3N>



NRCS Soil Health webinar series

**Soil health economics:
A farmer's perspective**
March 14, 1 p.m. CDT



In this upcoming webinar, Rodney Roulon will present both economic and soil health data from his on-farm studies as he has implemented his system. He will discuss how increasing soil organic matter by over 1.5 percent has resulted in a yield increase of 12.8 bushels of corn per acre. In addition, Rodney will show that the net economic benefit derived from soil health is more than \$69 per acre. <http://www.conservationwebinars.net/webinars/soil-health-economics-a-farmers-perspective>

Oklahoma Conservation Excellence in Communication Awards

Many districts bring attention to their participation in events by issuing press releases, or other means of outreach. Two districts were awarded at the 2017 State Meeting for their communication prowess.

Deer Creek Conservation District
Excellence in Communication by a Conservation District

Caney Valley Conservation District
Excellence in Innovative Communication

Now is the time to think how you can best promote your district and bring this recognition home at the end of this year.



Three Named to Oklahoma Conservation Hall of Fame

The Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts (OACD) held its annual meeting February 26-28, 2017. More than 300 individuals gathered at the Embassy Suites in downtown Oklahoma City to learn about soil, water, air and wildlife conservation efforts, elect new officers to the OACD board and honor conservation leaders. During the awards ceremony, three recipients were named to the Oklahoma Conservation Hall of Fame.

Conservation Hall of Fame - Director: **Mike Rooker**

Shawnee County Conservation District Director and Conservation Commission Member



Conservation Hall of Fame - Friend of Conservation Award: **Mike Thralls**
was honored posthumously for his incredible work in conservation. The award was accepted by his wife and son.



Mike Thralls Memorial
Scholarship awarded to
Justin Sawatzky of Clinton



Mike Thralls Memorial
Scholarship awarded to
Kaila Williams of Duncan

Conservation Hall of Fame - Friend of Conservation Award: **Ben Pollard**
honored for his incredible work in conservation with more than 30 years of service to the Oklahoma Conservation Commission and Conservation Districts.



OACD Names Outstanding Cooperator, District Director, and District

Outstanding Conservation District Cooperator: **Dustin Donley**, of Woodward, Okla. and the Woodward County Conservation District



Outstanding Conservation District Director: **Kenneth Salisbury** of Vici, Okla. and the Dewey County Conservation District



Outstanding Conservation District: **Blaine County Conservation District**



NRCS Names Oklahoma Conservationist of the Year and Outstanding Conservation Partners



Conservationist of the Year
Margarita Munoz
Payne CCD

"From controlling erosion and cedar encroachment to fencing off riparian areas to aggressive rotational grazing, your land management is an example other ranchers should take note of. Further, your cooperation with Payne CCD and NRCS to achieve your stewardship goals exemplifies the model of voluntary, locally-led conservation that has made working lands conservation a viable solution for sustainable agriculture."



Dan Herald, Texas CCD, receives a letter of recognition from Gary O'Neill, State Conservationist for NRCS in Oklahoma, for his outstanding conservation work in 2016.

"Your involvement in local conservation programs and community outreach is at the core of what conservation in Oklahoma is all about. Through your dedicated work with your local board, OACD and NACD, you've learned that without committed conservation district directors willing to get out into their communities and work directly with their constituents, locally-led conservation cannot be effective."



Tammy Curry, Murray & Garvin CCDs, Shirley Hudson, Ottawa CCD and Iris Imler, Cimarron CCD, receive letters of recognition from Gary O'Neill, State Conservationist for NRCS in Oklahoma, for their Outstanding Conservation work in 2016. David Milam, Atoka CCD not pictured.

"...you singlehandedly operated conservation efforts in Cimarron County"

"...you have demonstrated an impressive commitment in Ottawa CCD to conservation education—a vital component to ensuring future generations appreciate and care for our natural resources."

"... it is crucial that conservation districts and other partners identify ways to "share the load," and your demonstrated commitment in Murray CCD to that philosophy is commendable."



Wynea Buford (second from left), NRCS District Conservationist for McClain County, and Gary O'Neill (far right), State Conservationist for NRCS in Oklahoma, present Cleveland and McClain CCDs with letters of recognition for their outstanding partnership efforts in 2016.

"The robust cooperation between NRCS, Cleveland CCD and McClain CCD has made it possible for outreach efforts to be expanded in both counties and greatly increase workshop attendance... I'm confident that with the type of innovative thinking you have embraced, conservation has a bright future in Oklahoma."

Jacob Aver, Nowata CCD Wins OACD Auxiliary Scholarship

Sometimes there's no better way than a list to describe how impressively active someone is. Such is the case with Jacob Ever, the 2017 OACD Auxiliary Scholarship winner.



- He participated in the past 6 yrs. in the Nowata County Conservation District
 - Poster contest
 - Essay contest
 - Speech contest
- He loves to judge horses and livestock- He was a member of a team that won and placed at-State, Nationals , and Worlds.
- He is currently serves as the President of his FFA Chapter.
- Plays in the school band
- Academic Bowl
- Student Council
- Football- Captain
- Plays Basket Ball
- Member of Fellowship of Christian Athletes
- Vice President of his Senior Class and of the Tri County Technology Center
- At his school and in the Oklahoma Bartlesville's newspaper he was declared as "Student of the month"
- Obtained a GPA 4.0 throughout his high school career
- Classes he likes to take - Calculus, Electronics, Engineering
- During his spare time he works 40 hours/a month has a ranch hand on the family ranch.

Here are a few of his Teachers comment about him:

- Highly intelligent and motivated
- Quite simply an intelligent and excellent student
- Astute creative thinker
- Role model at Okla. Union High school in South Coffeyville , Ok
- His goal through out high school has been, To better himself and the world around him.
- He is the grandson of a Nowata County Conservation District Director- Mr. Bob Willis (grandmother was in attendance - Phyllis...wife of Bob Willis)
- Son of Karen & Rich Hour and lives in Lenapah, Oklahoma
- He will attend Oklahoma State University this fall (2017) and will be studying, Agricultural Engineering emphasis on Biosystems
- His Ambition - To be an expert in Agriculture Engineering so that he can help boost food output wherever it's most needed.

Jacob now advances to participate in the NACD South Central Regional Auxiliary Scholarship where he will compete with Texas, Louisiana and Arkansas' state Auxiliary Scholarship winners. Congratula. ons!



United States Department of Agriculture



FAIRVIEW SOIL HEALTH FIELD DAY

Plymouth Valley Cellars
CR EW 58 and CR NS 255
9 a.m.-1 p.m.

RSVP by March 14



Unlock the *Soil Health* potential on your farm!

Workshop Featuring:

Field demonstrations

Firsthand farmer reports

Practical soil science

Contact:

Major County Conservation District

580-227-4844 x3

cindy.bierig@ok.nacdnet.net

RSVP by March 14

Lunch sponsored by Sooner Cooperative, Inc., Farmers & Merchants National Bank, Fairview Savings and Loan Association, Farm Credit of Enid, Community National Bank, CGB Enterprises, Inc., Great Plains Cooperative, Oklahoma Wheat Commission, Rother Bros. Inc., Cheyenne Valley Ag Applicators, LLC, Major County Cattleman's Association, Farmers Elevator Company—46 Grain Company, NuTech Seed LLC, Sorghum Partners Brand and Wheatland RC&D.

MAJOR COUNTY
OKLAHOMA

Natural
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OKLAHOMA HEALTHY SOILS PROJECT - FIELD DAY

Wednesday, March 29, 2017
Ottawa County Demonstration Farm

Join Ottawa County Conservation District, the Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts, USDA-NRCS, and Oklahoma State University for a morning field day focusing on the impact of cover crops. Experts will be available to answer questions about soil, seeding rates and mixes, and the economics of cover crops.

This workshop is free and open to the public. Attendees should meet at 8:30 a.m. in the parking lot of Miller Pecan Company (21853 S. Hwy. 69, Afton, Oklahoma).

This project is sponsored in part by the Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, FY2015 Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP). Supporting partners include the Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts, Ottawa County Conservation District, the Oklahoma Conservation Commission and ITC.

**Please RSVP by Friday, March 24, 2017 to Shirley Hudson at
ottawaccd@conservation.ok.gov or 918-542-4576 Ext. 3350**



United States Department of Agriculture



CADDO COUNTY SOIL HEALTH WORKSHOP

Eakly Community Center
Downtown Eakly, OK
10 a.m.-12 p.m.



Unlock the *Soil Health* potential on your farm!

Workshop Featuring:

Cover crop benefit

Rainfall simulator

Practical soil science

Contact:

Caddo County NRCS

405-247-3303

Free lunch sponsored by Helena Chemical.



USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

CADDO COUNTY
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Southern States Forage Conference

March 31, 2017

Texarkana, Arkansas

**Four States Fairgrounds
Fine Arts Building**

- Leasing Property: Know Your Rights, *Tiffany Dowell Lashmet, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension*
- Producing Baleage
 - *Dr. Micheal McCormick, Louisiana State University*
 - *Producer Panel with Real World Baleage Experience*
- Management to Extend Grazing Season, *Dr. Paul Beck University of Arkansas*
- Livestock Forages and Potential Wildlife Benefits
 - Annual Warm Season Legumes, *Dr. Vanessa Corriher-Olson, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension*
 - Alfalfa, *Dr. John Jennings, University of Arkansas*
 - Wildlife Nutrition & Potential Benefits of Forage, *Dr. Billy Higginbotham, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension*

ON-SITE REGISTRATION

Registration 8:30 AM
Program Starts at 9:00 AM
Concludes by 3:00 PM

COSTS: \$30/PERSON OR \$50/COUPLE (INCLUDES LUNCH)

For more information contact: Vanessa Corriher-Olson, vacorriher@ag.tamu.edu or call 903-834-6191

March 30, 2017

This Week in Conservation



This is an internal newsletter intended for Conservation Commission and conservation district staff, directors, and partners.

March on the Capitol

District Directors and employees will team up to on **March 30** and head to the state capitol to educate legislators about conservation issues. OACD and OACDE board members will be team leaders of 16 teams with 7 team members each.

When: March 30 at 8:30 am—11:00 am

Where: Meet at new OCC offices, 2nd floor of the Department of Agriculture Building, then go to the state capitol

What: Get information on the financial needs of OCC and districts for the next fiscal year. Get instructions and prepare to head to the Capitol to impress upon the legislators the importance of funding for conservation.



Free Feral Hog Traps Available to Conservation Districts

When: March 30 at 11:00 am

Where: Northwest lawn of the Oklahoma Capitol

What: Feral hog trap demonstration as part of "The Campaign for Conservation @ the Capitol." The demonstration will highlight a six-panel trap with a steel head gate and use of a bait tube. **Districts that attend will have the opportunity to take home a hog trap door and the resources to build a complete hog trap.** The demonstration will include **lunch**. Experts on feral hog control from several agencies and the Noble Foundation will be on hand to answer questions.



Conservation Calendar of Events



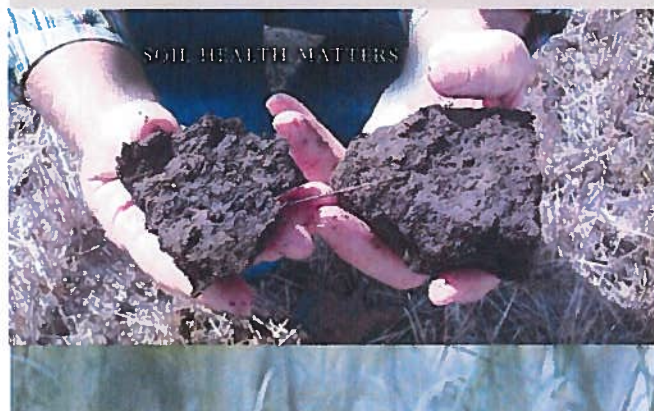
Date	Event	Location	District	Contact
3/24	Blue Thumb New Volunteer Training	Ada	Pontotoc CCD	405-521-6788
3/29	NRCS Caddo County Soil Health Workshop	Eakley	West Caddo CD	405-247-3303
3/29	Ottawa County Demo Farm Soil Health Field Day	Afton	Ottawa CCD	918-542-4576 x-3350
3/29	Ag Day at the Capitol	OKC	Oklahoma CCD	405-522-5560
3/30	OACD Campaign for Conservation @ the Capitol	OKC	Oklahoma CCD	517-763-8609
4/04	Kiowa County Demo Farm Soil Health Field Day	Hobart	Kiowa CCD	580-726-3786 x-3
4/12	Noble County Conservation Workshop	Perry	Noble CCD	405-710-3059
4/13	Eastern OK Ag Trade Show	Poteau	LeFlore CCD	918-647-3554
4/18	Stephens County Conservation Workshop	Duncan	Stephens CCD	580-255-7676 x-3

\$500 Stipends Available to Districts that Hold Soil Health Field Day

Districts: Is there a producer you know that you want to spotlight in your community? Are they trying something new, considering using cover crops, or struggling with a problem that is common in your county? Hold a field day! You provide the producer(s) and fields and we'll bring the experts.

- Soil sampling and testing for one of the host producer's fields will be provided.
- Lunch cost will be reimbursed (up to per person maximum)
- Field day must be at least 3 hours long
- Must sign agreement with OCC
- Event must be held **by August 31, 2017.**

Questions? Call Stacy at 405-522-4739 or email stacy.hansen@conservation.ok.gov



District Director Responsibilities: A 10-Minute Guide Series

Guide No. 22 - Locally Earned Funds

Many districts operate services to generate what is referred to as "locally earned funds." A general rule of thumb to use when determining whether an expenditure of locally earned funds is appropriate is "does the expenditure promote conservation and conservation programs of the district?" If the answer is yes, then the expenditure can be justified. Districts must remember that these funds are public monies and must be expended in keeping with the same rules that apply to state appropriated funds.

Read the full guide.

The 10-Minute Guide Series is a series of informational topics designed to help conservation district directors become more informed and knowledgeable about their responsibilities. Directors are encouraged to review a guide before each board meeting, and then have a 10 minute discussion on it during the meeting. The series is available online here:

<http://bit.ly/258CtOT>

Oklahoma Load Reductions Rank Top 5 in Nation in 2016

Oklahoma's Nonpoint Source Program has once again been nationally recognized for success. Results for FY2016 show:

Nitrogen down 665,625 pounds

Phosphorus down 457,669 pounds

What does this mean?

A pollution load is the amount of pollutant a stream is carrying at a given time. This is measured against strict water quality standards.

In this case, "load reduction" refers to the amount of nitrogen and phosphorous that did not run off the land into nearby streams, lakes, or rivers. This amount is determined by a process that considers the effect of individual conservation practices on the pollutants based on county-specific soil, land use, population and many other things.

We use information about how many acres the 319 Water Quality Program and partner programs have in conservation practices in each county during the year to estimate the load reductions.

So, load reductions are a direct result of conservation practices that prevent soil erosion, which keeps nutrients in fields where they belong!



Livestock heavy use area before (above) and after (below) conservation practice was applied.



Watering tanks and heavy use areas located away from waterways reduces erosion and nutrient runoff to streams.

These are the types of conservation practices the 319 Water Quality Program supports and encourages.

CREP Discontinued in Eucha-Spavinaw and Illinois River watersheds

OCC Water Quality Division Director, Shanon Phillips, advised the Conservation Commission members at the March Commission meeting that enrollment for the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) in the Eucha-Spavinaw and Illinois River Watersheds has declined over the last few years, and suggested discontinuing the program. The Commissioners voted to do so.

The CREP program currently has 673.3 acres enrolled, and over the years it has included more. These are all riparian acres (along a waterway). Considering one acre of riparian area drains/filters approximately 13 acres of land, on average in NE Oklahoma, that translates to **9,152 total acres filtered through riparian areas as a result of landowners participating in the CREP program.** The CREP acres complement the 2,182 acres in the Illinois River Watershed project and the 460 acres enrolled in the Eucha Spavinaw project implemented through the 319 Program.

The OCC has been administering the CREP Program in the Eucha-Spavinaw and Illinois River watersheds for 10 years. The program compensates landowners for setting aside property that abuts streams (riparian areas). This allows the riparian area to capture sediment and nutrients that may otherwise move from the field into the stream.

Landowners currently enrolled will continue to receive payments as long as the terms of their agreements are met.

News9 Helps OCC Spread the Word about Water Quality

KWTV News 9 helped OCC spread the word about how we are all connected and how we impact water quality! Watch the short informational spot at this link, and don't forget to share the link with others!

<http://m.news9.com/Video.aspx?clipId=13200704&catId=112037>



OKLAHOMA HEALTHY SOILS PROJECT

Tuesday, April 4, 2017

Kiowa County Demonstration Farm

Join Kiowa County Conservation District, the Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts, USDA-NRCS, and Oklahoma State University for a morning field day focusing on the impact of cover crops. Experts will be available to answer questions about soil, seeding rates and mixes, and the economics of cover crops.

This workshop is free and open to the public. Attendees should meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Kiowa County Conservation District Barn (1652 E 5th St, Hobart, OK located just South of the cemetery off HWY1830).

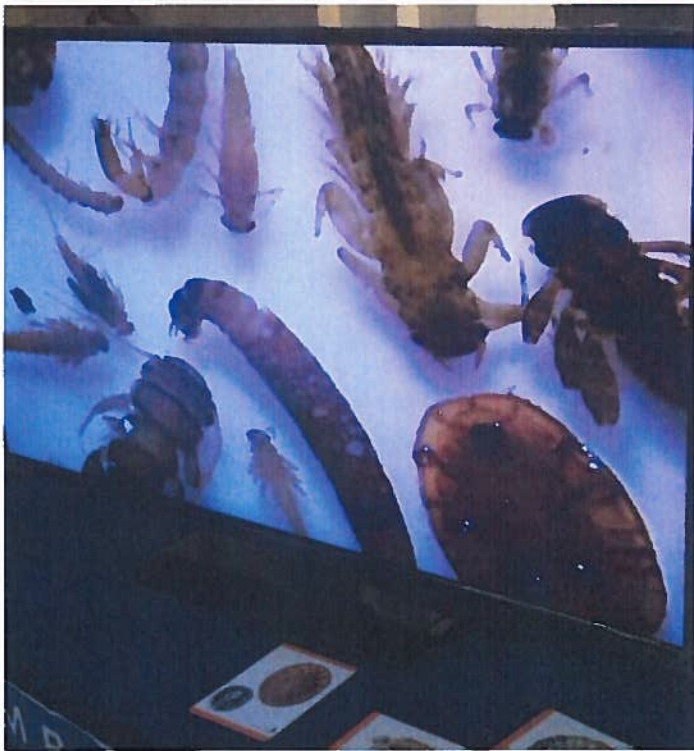
The project is sponsored in part by the Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and FY2015 Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP). Supporting partners include the Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts, Kiowa County Conservation District, and the Oklahoma Conservation Commission.

Any questions call 580-726-3786 ext 3 or 580-832-2549 ext 101 or KiowaCCD@conservation.ok.gov or will.brock@ok.usda.gov.



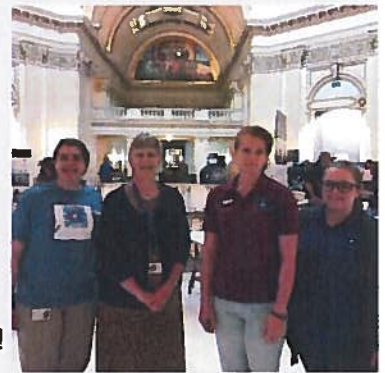
Fish Fact: Green Sunfish

The Green Sunfish is highly adaptable and found statewide in OK. It is able to thrive in a wide variety of environments including streams that are very turbid or have very low dissolved oxygen. Its adaptability means it is often a pioneer species, being the first to repopulate a stream after periods of drought. While it is not sensitive to pollution, it is moderately habitat dependent meaning it needs cover like rocks and woody debris to thrive. This Green Sunfish was collected from Bois D'arc Creek in Pontotoc County.

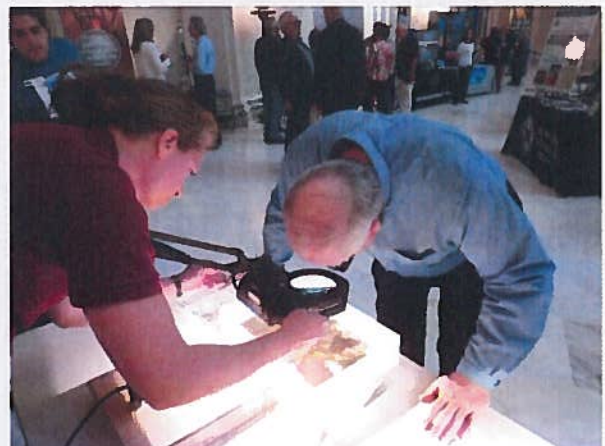


Conservation Commission Brings Macro Viewer to Water Appreciation Day at the Capitol

Did you know it's a good thing when macroinvertebrates, "bugs," like these are found in a stream? They are larval forms of flying insects that are fish food, and their presence tells us about the health of a stream. Aren't you glad they're not really this big!



The magnified "bugs" got the attention of visitors and legislators on the fourth floor rotunda at the state capitol on March 21—Water Appreciation Day—where there were also live samples for viewing. Many visitors stopped by for a closer look and learned more about stream health from OCC Water Quality staff.



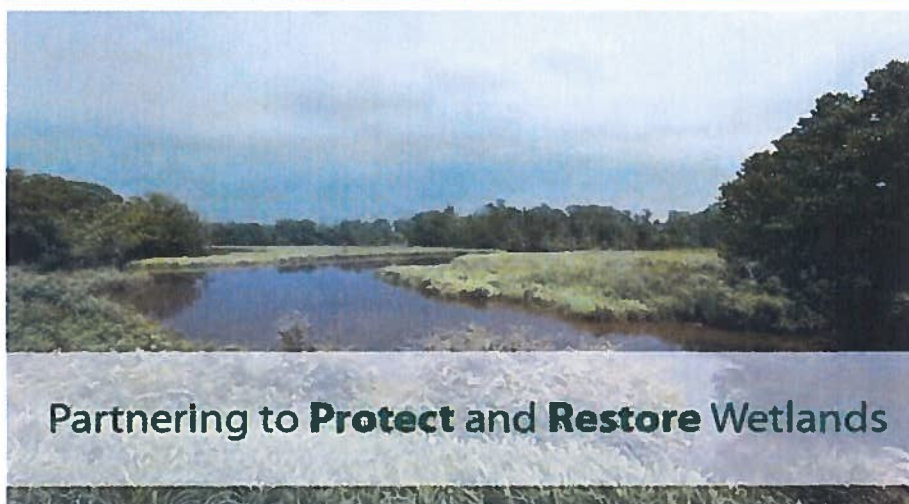
Districts! Wetlands Reserve Enhancement Partnership funding is available to you!!

Via NRCS—USDA is offering up to \$15 million in technical and financial assistance for eligible conservation partners to voluntarily protect, restore and enhance critical wetlands on agricultural lands. **Proposals must be submitted to NRCS state offices by April 24, 2017.**

"Restored wetlands improve water quality downstream and improve wildlife habitat, while also providing flood prevention and recreational benefits to communities" said Gary O'Neill, State Conservationist for NRCS.

Through WREP NRCS will partner with districts to voluntarily enroll private landowners' eligible land into easements for wetlands. WREP is open to states, local units of governments, non-governmental organizations and American Indian tribes, not individual landowners.

More information is available on the [ACEP webpage](#)



Districts! Celebrate Stewardship Week in Your Community!

NACD's 62nd **Stewardship Week** is only a month away! **April 30 to May 7**, will celebrate the 2017 theme "**Healthy Soils are Full of Life!**"

If your district has plans to celebrate, let NACD know at sara-kangas@nacdn.net and they'll add your event to a map of Stewardship Week celebrations across the country.

If you haven't made plans for Stewardship Week yet, NACD's website for ideas. There you'll find links for a sample public service announcement, a template news release, a proclamation, and all of 2017's [downloadable education materials](#).



Blue Thumb for Retirees

Ben Pollard, Roger Davis, and Jim Leach are some cool dudes at their Blue Thumb monitoring site on Soldier Creek in Arcadia. With their kick net they are collecting macroinvertebrates, "bugs," which help determine the health of this creek they monitor monthly.





State Poster Contest Winner from Pittsburg CCD

Regan Labor from Kiowa Public School in the **Pittsburg CCD** won first place in the OACD annual poster contest which showcases each student's art skill while learning about conservation of natural resources. Regan was also honorable mention at the national level.

Pictured above are District Board members Ben Murdaugh, Liz Shaw, Kenneth Battles, Regan Labor, Wayne Sexton and A. J. Bristow.

Fire Relief Assistance Available from NRCS

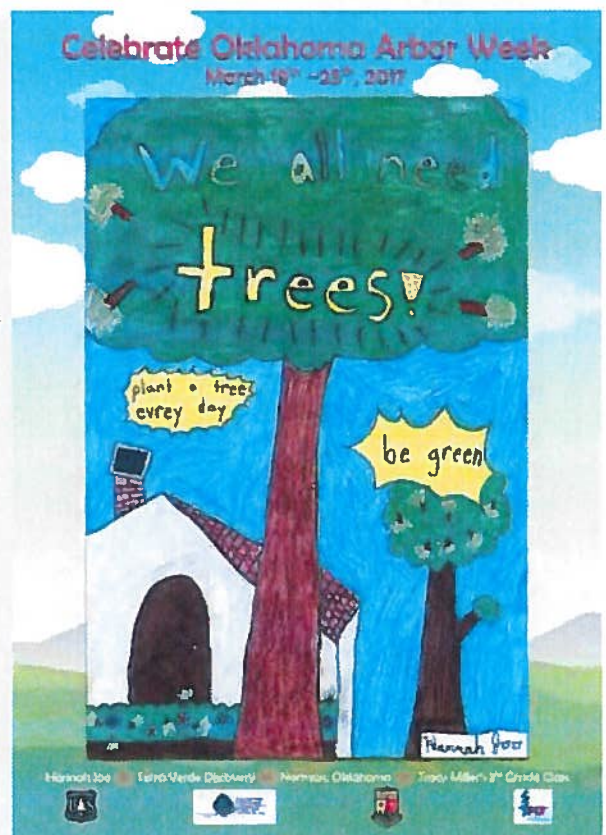
The NRCS is making funding available to Oklahoma agricultural producers in **Beaver, Harper and Woodward CCDs** for wildfire relief assistance.

Through EQIP, applications will be accepted until **April 21, 2017**. Producers in the affected districts are encouraged to check with their local NRCS service center.



Arbor Week Posters Available

Order your Arbor Week posters and book-marks online from Oklahoma Forestry Services at the link below:
<http://www.forestry.ok.gov/request-a-winning-poster>



Major CCD, Fairview NRCS, and Partners Hold Successful Soil Health Field Day

(Adapted from event article by Michael Roberts, NRCS)

Major CCD and Fairview NRCS, along with partners OSU Extension and local FSA, held a locally led Soil Health Outreach Meeting this month south of Fairview. The group spent about 2 hours in a few fields in the area looking at the soil and the effects of different cropping systems including no-till, conventional tillage, crop rotations, cover crops, permanent grass and other management factors. After lunch the 71 participants in attendance viewed a few presentations as well as soil demonstrations, including the rainfall simulator, soil slake tests, a tabletop water infiltration demonstration as well as the infiltration tests completed in the field. This was a great day looking at the health of our soils!



EARTH DAY Festival 2017

Sunday, April 23 12-5 pm
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Four EQIP Initiatives Offer New Opportunities to Oklahoma Farmers and Ranchers

Applications due April 21, 2017

STILLWATER, Okla.—The USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) invites farmers and ranchers to visit their [local NRCS field office](#) and apply for participation in conservation initiatives designed to restore landscapes, improve wildlife habitat and increase energy efficiency. **Applications are due April 21, 2017.**

Part of NRCS's flagship conservation program, the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), the four initiatives are:

Joint Chief's Landscape Restoration Partnership which assists private landowners with creating more resilient, open woodland structures to improve water quality and quantity, improve wildlife habitat, reduce wildfire losses and enhance economic development in chronically impoverished counties.

"Forests are a critical component of ecosystem and community health in some parts of Oklahoma," Said Gary O'Neill, State Conservationist for NRCS in Oklahoma. "By assisting landowners with forest management, we can build resiliency to a whole range of factors for years to come."

Lesser Prairie Chicken Initiative which helps ranchers remove invasive plants and adopt grazing management systems that provide habitat for the lesser prairie-chicken while sustaining adequate forage for livestock. An iconic bird of the prairie, the current range for the prairie-chicken is reduced to relatively small and scattered areas totaling about 17 percent of its historic range.

"The great thing about this type of wildlife conservation is the things that benefit native wildlife also benefit ranching operations. Good prairie-chicken habitat means healthy rangeland with fewer invasive plants and better grazing opportunities" said O'Neill.

Working Lands for Wildlife (WLFW) for Monarch Butterfly which provides technical and financial assistance to farmers and ranchers to improve or create habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators. The initiative offers conservation practices such as prescribed fire, brush and cedar management and prescribed grazing.

"Pollinators are an indispensable component of agriculture and functioning ecosystems. Taking care of these animals should be a priority on any farm or ranch, especially since the practices that benefit pollinators can also benefit an operation's bottom line," said O'Neill.

On-Farm Energy Initiative which enables farms and ranches to save money and resources through development of an Agricultural Energy Management Plan followed by assistance to put in place necessary system and equipment upgrades.

"Making farms more energy efficient means farms that are addressing more natural resource concerns and are more sustainable over time," said O'Neill.

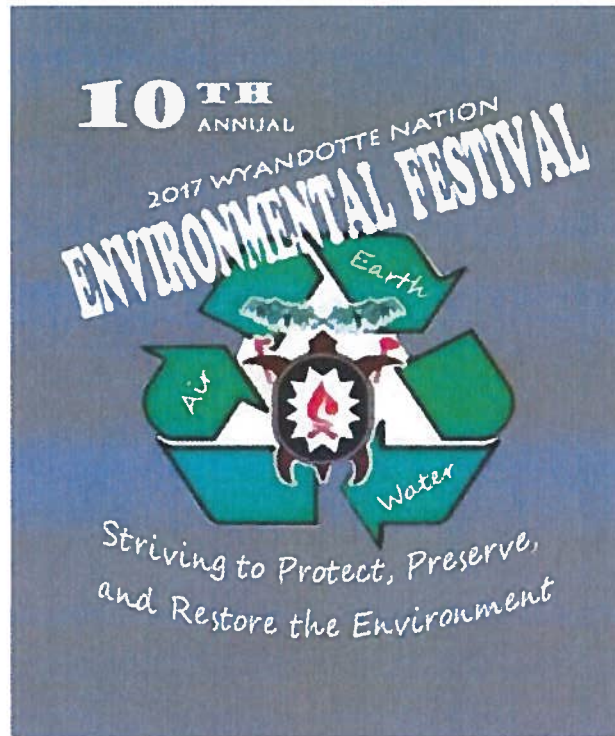
Step-by-step assistance can be found at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/getstarted>.

EQIP is a voluntary program that provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers to help plan and implement conservation practices that address priority local and state resource concerns. Producers must submit a complete program application, establish "farm records", and other documentation to support eligibility to be considered for financial assistance through EQIP.

*Exciting
Educational Booths*

Fun

Fun



Hands on Presentations

**WHEN: April 28, 2017
10 AM to 3 PM**

**WHERE: Heritage Acres Splash Pad/Playground
(Inclement weather location is
Bearskin Fitness Center Gym)**

Contact: Kathleen Welch at 918-678-6335

**SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE
COME ONE COME ALL !**

Wyandotte Nation Environmental Department

Conservation District Employee Evaluation of: _____

Scale: 5 (outstanding – consistently exceeds expectations)

4 (very good – sometimes exceeds expectations)

3 (satisfactory – meets expectations)

2 (needs improvement)

1 (fails to meet expectations)

A. Work Habits/ Attitudes

- _____ 1 Exhibits common sense, maturity, and good judgment
- _____ 2 Takes pride in work, has interest in office
- _____ 3 Applies enthusiasm and interest to the job
- _____ 4 Works well under stressful conditions meets deadlines, deals with time constraints
- _____ 5 Independent – requires minimal supervision on many tasks, gets job done
- _____ 6 Dependable – on time for work, uses leave consistent with office policies
- _____ 7 Professional personal appearance
- _____ 8 Time effectiveness – uses time wisely to accomplish work
- _____ 9 Acceptance of directions and criticism
- _____ 10 Flexibility – willingness to accept new assignments, good attitude toward change, new duties and methods

B. Technical Skills

- _____ 11 Work is technically accurate and free from errors
- _____ 12 Follows established policies and procedures
- _____ 13 Problem solving, creativity, resourcefulness
- _____ 14 Initiative – self-starter, voices ideas

C. Communication Skills

- _____ 15 Oral communication
- _____ 16 Written communication
- _____ 17 Communication and interaction with coworkers

D. Dealing with co-workers, customers, and other agencies

- _____ 18 Tact and diplomacy
- _____ 19 Skill in getting along with coworkers
- _____ 20 Willingness to assist in support activities
- _____ 21 Interpersonal skills – listens and communicates effectively
- _____ 22 Cooperation with NRCS – does a good working relationship exist?
- _____ 23 Cooperation with other agencies
- _____ 24 Cooperation with board of directors and other district employees
- _____ 25 Confidentiality

1. What are this person's strengths?

2. What improvements needed?

The following questions are optional and should be asked at TCCD's discretion.

3. Does this person supervise effectively?

4. Does this person demonstrate leadership skills and motivate co-workers?

5. Does this person handle additional responsibilities well?

6. Does this person delegate tasks to others?

Employee's Comments:

Date of TCCD board meeting at which review was completed: _____

Chairman's Signature: _____

Date: _____

Employee's Signature: _____

Date: _____