

SWCD Training Program | *January 2011*

Module 12: Election Process & Board Member Recruitment



Characteristics Of Successful District Board Members

- Time to commit to the SWCD (figuring minimum of 10 hours per month, more if an Officer of the Board or serve on Committee(s))
- Long-time producers with historical knowledge and on-the-ground experience
- Unique or little-known product producers
- Background and experience
- Professional expertise (especially retired engineers, teachers, farmers, foresters, etc.)



Alaska State Library - Historical Collections

Needs Of The District And Board Member Recruitment

- What projects/objectives has the Board identified and prioritized?
- What types of land users would understand and/or help further those goals?



Board Member Recruitment Techniques



- Advertising
- Word of mouth
- Attend the Farmer's Markets and the fairs around the state
- Invite all local land users/producers to participate in meetings to spark their interest
- As the SWCD assists land users throughout the year, inform them what the SWCD does, what the SWCD can do, and how they can help the next person down the line -- the pass it on motto
- Look to the Cooperators the SWCD already has, either for their participation, or references of other qualified land users that may be interested

Board Member Election And/Or Appointment Process, Procedures, Forms & Deadlines



- Elections are run by the NRCDB in cooperation with the individual SWCDs. The election process begins in September of each year when SWCDs send the NRCDB their "Certified Cooperator List," in October there is a nominations process, culminating with the election in December, new Supervisors take office each January.
- If there is an un-contested seat, the NRCDB may appoint the position; and during the year if a Supervisor resigns or discontinues from the Board for any reason, the local SWCD will appoint an interim Supervisor utilizing the SWCDs recommendations.
- Elected Supervisors cannot assume the duties of the board until the oath of office is signed and they are sworn in.

Board Member Removal

- Supervisors can be removed by a majority vote of the board for cause. Examples of cause include inappropriate conduct, violation of the Alaska Executive Branch Ethics Act, violation of Federal, State or Local Law, malfeasance, or abuse of position.
- A Supervisor shall be removed from a SWCD Board if he/she is absent from three regular meetings without excuse or is absent from five regular meetings, within any consecutive 12-month period.

