

SWCD Training Program | *January 2011*

Module 5:

Roles & Responsibilities

of Local, State and National Associations And Partners



Importance of Forming Partnerships For District Program Delivery

- Partnerships are beneficial to Districts. Some of the common partners of SWCDs include:
 - Federal Agencies: US Fish and Wildlife Service, US Forest Service, and the US Department of Agriculture
 - State Agencies: Department of Environmental Conservation, Department of Fish and Game, and Department of Natural Resources, and University of Alaska
 - Local Agencies: Boroughs and Municipalities, Village organizations and City governments
 - Private Entities: Alaska Community Foundation, Rasmuson Foundation, AACD, and local businesses

State Association History & Structure

- AACD was formed in 1965, becoming a non-profit Corporation filed under Section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Service Code in 1998. AACD was created by the Districts to assist SWCDs in administration, personnel, payroll. AACD is not affiliated with the State. AACD serves at the will of the individual SWCDs, their services provided upon SWCD request. The Board of AACD is comprised of one or more representative from each SWCD; however AACD cannot require action by the individual SWCDs. SWCDs are stand-alone state entities, AACD is a resource available to SWCDs.
- Refer to AACD's website for information:
www.AlaskaConservationDistricts.org



National Association History & Structure



National Association of State Conservation Agencies

NASCA is a national association that exists only to serve and represent its members: fifty-five state and territory conservation agencies of the United States. Members vary as to their place and function in state/territory government, but the agencies administer soil, water, and related natural resource conservation programs. The Executive Director of the NRCDB serves as the SWCD's primary representative to this association. www.nascanet.org



National Association of Conservation Districts

The primary goals of NACD are the conservation, orderly development and judicious use of the nation's land, water, timber and related natural resources through the maximum exercise of local initiative, decision and self-government, implemented by the districts of the U.S. Its purposes are carried out through collection and distribution of information in a periodic newsletter, website, special reports and annual meetings. www.nacdnet.org

Specific Programs Offered By Local, State & National Associations

- Some resources available:
 - Federal funding: <http://www.grants.gov>
 - Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance:
<https://www.cfda.gov/>
 - Small Business Administration: <http://www.sba.gov>
 - State of Alaska, Public Noticing Website:
<http://notes3.state.ak.us/pn>
 - Cyber-Sierra's Conservation Grant Center:
<http://www.conservationgrants.com/site.htm>
 - The Foundation Center: <http://foundationcenter.org/>

NRCS Structure

- NRCS's Vision: Equity for People and Programs; Mission: Ensure compliance with Agency policies for conservation and equal opportunity programs, and accountability for the delivery of quality and timely services to our customers.
- Hierarchy within the NRCS and the US Department of Agriculture:

President of the United States



Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, DC



Under-Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, DC



Director, US Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC



NRCS State Conservationist, Palmer



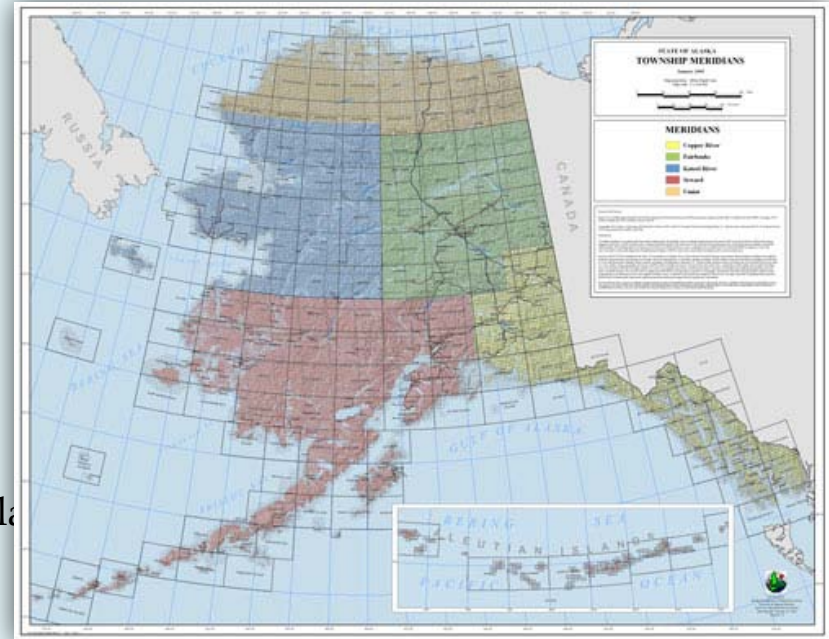
NRCS Assistant State Conservationist, Palmer



NRCS Local District Conservationists: Anchorage, Aniak, Dillingham, Fairbanks, Glennallen, Homer, Juneau, Kenai, Kodiak, Mat-Su, Nome

Department of Natural Resources & SWCDs: Structure, Position & Responsibilities

- SWCDs are under the Commissioner of the State Department of Natural Resources. The NRCDB acts in an advisory capacity to the SWCDs and also advises the Commissioner on natural resource related matters, including SWCDs. Each Board Member of the NRCDB is responsible to represent the SWCD(s) within their region.
- The NRCDB is a State Board appointed by the Governor, that advises and represents the SWCDs. The NRCDB is comprised of five representatives, chosen from the five regions of the state:
 - ❖ the Arctic and Northwest Alaska
 - ❖ The Yukon and Tanana Valleys
 - ❖ Southwest Alaska and the Kenai Peninsula
 - ❖ Southcentral Alaska
 - ❖ Southeast Alaska



- **The functions of the NRCDB:**

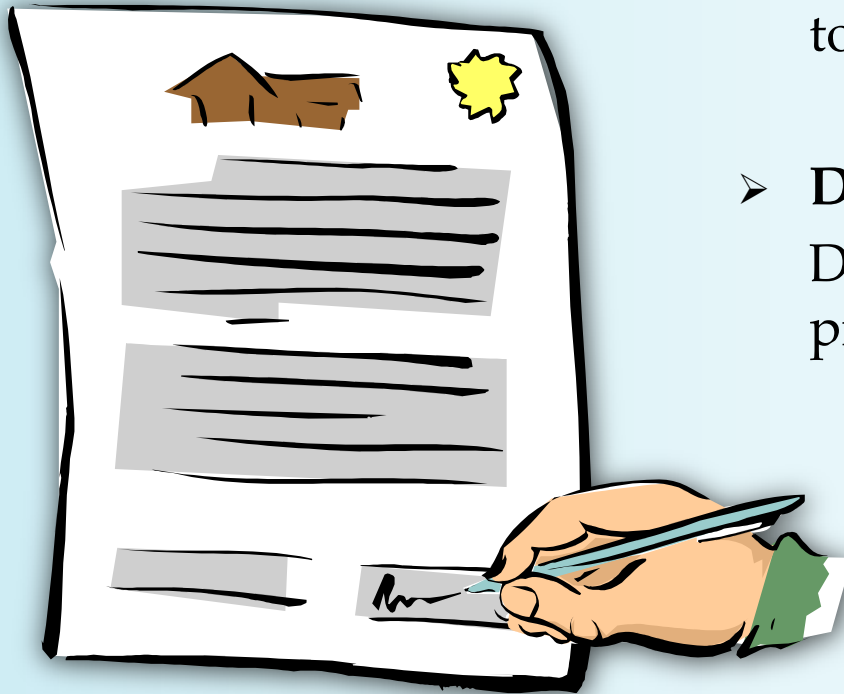
- advise the Commissioner in the exercise of the powers, duties and functions of the Commissioner;
- receive and review reports concerning the use of soil resources of the state;
- hold public hearings and meetings to determine whether land in the state is being used in a manner consistent with sound soil and water conservation practices;
- make recommendations for specific action necessary to provide for the effective and orderly development of agricultural, forest, and grazing land in the state;
- review an appeal by an applicant or lessee from a decision of the Director of the Division of Lands concerning a sale or lease of state agricultural or grazing land and submit its recommendations to the Commissioner or hearing officer;
- act in an advisory capacity to districts in the state; and
- act in an advisory capacity to the Commissioner and Director of the Division of Agriculture in the review of farm conservation plans for all state agricultural land sales in the state.

- The NRCDB Board Members serve a term of three years. The Commissioner, or in the Commissioner's absence, the Director of the Division of Agriculture, serves ex officio but without a vote on the board. The members of the NRCDB also sit as the Board of Supervisors of the Alaska District.
- The NRCDB has an Executive Director, housed in the Commissioner's Office.
- This Executive Director is a vital resource to the SWCDs, providing:
 - Guidance
 - Instruction as to State protocols
 - Support, financial and otherwise
 - Liaison between SWCDs and DNR/Dept of Law



- **Alaska District**

- All areas of the state not within a formally organized, local SWCD are in the Alaska SWCD.
- When a District is formed, a piece of the Alaska District becomes formally organized into a local SWCD, the Alaska District can be available to help with the set-up of the new District.
- Virtually ALL Districts border on the Alaska District.
- Why is the Alaska District made up of the same people as the NRCDB?
 - Alaska Statute 41.10.130(b) "The area of the state that is not located within a district organized under (a) of this section shall be governed by the board." By Statute "The Board" is defined as the NRCDB.
 - Involvement and experience as active district supervisors ensures the NRCDB is in-step with the local SWCDs.



- **Attorney General's Office**

The State Attorney General's Office has an assigned representative to provide advice to the NRCDB and SWCDs.

- **DNR Procurement**

DNR Procurement is the large procurement arm of the SWCDs.

Other State Agency Partner Opportunities



Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development



Department of Environmental Conservation



Department of Fish and Game



Department of Natural Resources



Department of Transportation

Other Federal Agency Partner Opportunities



US Environmental Protection Agency



US Fish and Wildlife Service



US Forest Service



US Department of Agriculture



US Parks Service



US Department of Defense

Local Agencies & Organizations

Partner Opportunities

- Borough or Municipality
- Community groups and watershed councils
- Resource Conservation & Development Councils
- Non-profits and other organizations, Cooperative Weed Management Associations, Alaska Native Corporations and Associations
- Future Farmers of America
- Girl and Boy Scouts
- 4-H Club



Partnerships: Memorandums of Understanding & Other Agreements (With Specifics About Roles & Responsibilities And Examples of Successful Partnerships)

- AACD and NRCS have an agreement with DNR included in the Operational Agreement, Strategy and Long-Range Program Plan, signed in 2009 (see Module 13, References), that in part sets the following goals for the SWCDs to include, but not limited to:
 - Consistent and Professional Management and Leadership
 - Education and Training
 - Soil Resources
 - Water Resources
 - Plant Materials/Invasive Plants
 - Forest Management and Development
 - Agriculture
 - Climate Change and Renewable Energy

Some Examples of Successful Partnerships From Around The Country

- **The Delaware County SWCD** partners with county and local officials to provide all maintenance to drainage improvements in the area: <http://www.delawareswcd.org/index.php/drainage-maintenance-program>
- **Green County SWCD** partners with Federal, State and Local officials to provide creek and watershed management: <http://www.gcswcd.com/stream/>
- **Prince William SWCD** partnered with many groups, individuals and businesses to do an "extreme makeover" of a horse property: <http://www.pwswcd.org/horse-owners.html>
- **The Franklin County, Maine SWCD** has successful partnerships in several of their programs: <http://www.franklincswcd.org/index12.html>