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PRESS RELEASE

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Anchorage Soil and Water Conservation District to be revived

(Anchorage, AK) – The Anchorage Soil and Water Conservation District (ASWCD) is being revived after several years of dormancy and is issuing a call today for nominations to serve on its new district Board of Supervisors, said Dave Schade, director of the Division of Agriculture.

Local soil and water conservation districts are state-authorized entities operating under authority of the Department of Natural Resources to improve natural resource management by coordinating technical, financial and educational resources to meet the needs of local land users for conservation of soil, water and related resources. Alaska has had as many as 13 active local soil and water conservation districts.

“The Anchorage district had operated from 1997 until 2016, when it went dormant due to lack of participation and funding,” Schade said. “Getting it back up and running will significantly benefit the cause of responsible resource management in Alaska’s largest city and help continue the progress of Alaska’s agricultural sector.”

Nominations to fill one- to three-year terms on the Anchorage district’s five-member Board of Supervisors are due to the Division of Agriculture by Nov. 10. If more than five candidates are nominated an election will follow, with ballots sent to certified electors comprising Anchorage area residents with valid ASWCD cooperator agreements as of October 10. New district supervisors will be sworn in at the first meeting following nominations and elections.

Once its supervisors are seated and its organization fully reactivated, the Anchorage district may work on topics of urban agricultural and natural resource concerns, such as controlling invasive tree species, increasing Anchorage’s tree canopy cover, and promoting agriculture in urban areas, Schade said.

The Alaska Association of Conservation Districts, which helps support local districts secure state and federal grants and meet organizational challenges, has been working to help restore the Anchorage district, said Chris Rainwater, volunteer president of the association.

“We at the Alaska Association of Conservation Districts are delighted to see this initiative to reactivate the Anchorage Soil and Water Conservation District and look forward to helping the Anchorage district get back on its feet,” Rainwater said.

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