



The

Conservation Connection Summer Quarterly Meeting

The summer quarterly meeting was held July 17-18 at Canaan Valley Resort & Conference Center. A special treat this year included the Potomac Valley Conservation District's sponsorship of a tour and lunch during the meeting.

During the tour of the Potomac Valley CD, attendees visited the WVDA lab facility in Moorefield, Cottage Hill Farm (poultry and beef operation), a guided driving tour of Moorefield, a drive by of Seneca Rocks, and a wonderful video presentation of PVCD and dinner at the South Fork Ruritan Club.

On Tuesday, everyone gathered for updates from committees and our partners. The WVACD Board of Directors voted to proceed with applying for an NACD Outreach and Technical Assistance grant. This grant will allow WVACD to assist conservation districts with marketing, outreach, and education initiatives that aim to target non-traditional producers, cooperators, and potential participants in district programs and activities. These individuals would also assist districts with their board succession and diversity, equity, and inclusion plans, along with assisting WVACD in creating a strategic plan and annual report. Several other districts may also apply for support personnel in their districts as well. More information on the grant can be found at: <https://www.nacdnet.org/technical-assistance-grants/2023-technical-assistance-grants/>. Please contact Heather with any questions regarding the grant and the application process.

The new WVACD budget was also approved. Thank you to everyone who was involved in the budget process and to the districts who have paid their 2024 membership dues. While no one likes to see an increase, the funds will continue to be used wisely and for the best interests of the organization.

Looking forward, the October awards banquet and annual meeting is shaping up to be a fantastic event. More information will be coming as that meeting comes together. Please go ahead and mark your calendars for October 16-17.



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GOING FURTHER

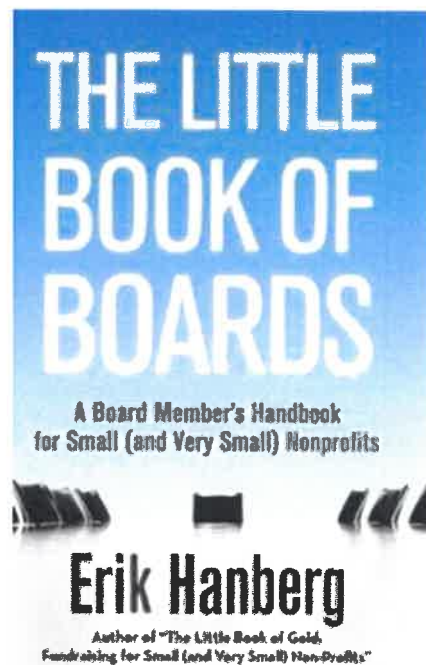
Personal Development Opportunities

Everyone should take time for some personal continuing education. It could be attending a local leadership conference, or taking the course on the next page, or reading a book or a series on becoming a better board member.

I really enjoy this series of books from Erik Hanberg for non-profits. They are very relatable to many different organizations and structures. If anyone is looking for a new book, I suggest starting with *The Little Book of Boards: A Board Member's Handbook for Small (and Very Small) Nonprofits*. It reviews recruiting, board improvement, being a leader, and includes supporting information in the appendices.

Be sure to share other books and resources that you participate in with your fellow CD board and WVACD members.

Check this book out on Amazon and it can be purchased in hardcover, paperback, audio, and Kindle.





Early Bird Registration Ends July 28! Please check out the WVNA for more opportunities.

Board Service Virtual Track

Thursday, September 21st

2:30 PM - 4:00 PM

Danie Greenwell, Nonprofit CFO with 100 Degrees Consulting

Katie Loudin, Director of Strategic Development with WV Community Development Hub

Margaret Chapman Pomponio, Executive Director of WV FREE

Financial health is one of the key ways to ensure that your mission stays impactful year after year, and helps grow your organization's ability to do the work it does best. Whether you are a seasoned board member or just getting started, this workshop will help you understand how financial management should inform the board's decision making, strategy, and communication.

Nonprofit board members have multiple financial roles in the organization, but it is often difficult to weed through what is important in monthly, quarterly, or annual board meetings. In this workshop, we will go through duties of board members as it relates to finance and then look through some sample financial statements and documents. This panel-based discussion will provide practical advice for how to be an engaged board member, and how to engage board members, who can follow along with nonprofit finances. Additionally, we will touch on 990s, state filing requirements, and audits.

During the session, you will get a chance to work through some scenarios with your peers and bring back comments and questions to the larger group. While we do not expect you to share private information, we suggest that you bring your most recent financial statements and the organization's 990 so you can follow along using materials that are most relevant to you. You will get a chance to connect with other board members during sessions and keep the learning going by making connections to others.

We expect this to be an interactive workshop, so please bring questions and thoughts about what your organization does well and what types of reports might help your board prepare for the financial future.



Register online at: <https://wvnpa.org/register-today/>

A Note From ...

Your Executive Director

Thankfully this past quarterly meeting was not quite the scorcher that last year's meeting was! Actually, it was quite the opposite as we were all searching for our jackets! What's that age old saying about not being able to please a farmer?! But, aside from not finding that perfect temperature we could all agree on, what a great meeting. I heard several say that this was one of the best tours and meetings and thank you to those who had a hand in planning and executing this July quarterly meeting. It certainly takes a team of folks to get things done. I certainly appreciate each individual person that is able to take on their assigned tasks while also working together to accomplish the overall goal.

I am glad to see that your Association is trying new things and willing to take leaps. Even though votes at times may be split, it shows that everyone has the ability to share their reasons, provide insights, and points of views that others may not have thought of. Many of you may have heard me say, "it's just some growing pains" as we maybe do things just a touch different or we go after something we never went after before. No organization can afford to stay in the same rut; it only gets deeper.

As we come into our fall season I hope that you take this time to ramp up your awards and appreciation banquets. Showcase a small program in your district to help promote it, invite a local reporter to cover your banquet and make the front page of your newspaper, invite someone you've never invited before. Use all local foods to showcase your producers in your district. The opportunities to change from the norm and include more from your community are endless.

All the Best,

Heather

What's your 'why'? Why are you doing what you're doing? If you can't answer that question immediately, please take some time for reflection.

My 'why' is the 3 little girls in this picture. I want to ensure that they can play in their creek without concern and that they know all about what surrounds them.



E-mail: hduncan@wvca.us

cell: (304) 433-6280

fax: (304) 876-1403

NACD HOLDS 2023 SUMMER CONSERVATION FORUM AND TOURS IN NORTH DAKOTA

JULY 19, 2023 CONTACT: CANDICE ABINANTI @ CANDICE-ABINANTI@NACDNET.ORG

Bismarck, ND – This week, the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) held the 2023 Summer Conservation Forum and Tours in Bismarck, North Dakota. Hosted in partnership with the **North Dakota Association of Soil Conservation Districts**, this summer's meeting gathered conservation leaders from across the country to discuss emerging natural resource concerns and innovative solutions. The meeting included a panel on grassland conservation and grazing management, as well as remarks from **North Dakota Lieutenant Governor Tammy Miller, North Dakota Deputy Agriculture Commissioner Tom Bodine, Natural Resources Conservation Service Chief Terry Cosby, Farm Service Agency Administrator Zach Ducheneaux.**

During the luncheon on Monday, attendees also heard remarks from **U.S. Senator for North Dakota John Hoeven**. Senator Hoeven spoke about the importance of voluntary, locally-led conservation, partnerships, and an approach that is not one size fits all. "Don't make farmers and ranchers fit the program," said **Hoeven**, "make the program fit the farmers and ranchers."

NACD President Kim LaFleur addressed the association's Board of Directors on Sunday, emphasizing the importance of developing next generation leaders at all levels and engaging with new audiences and partners. "We need to make room for new chairs at the table to continue to grow voluntary, locally-led conservation in communities across the nation with partners both long-standing and new," she said.

The meeting also provided the opportunity to see conservation in action in North Dakota with tours to the Black Leg Ranch, the Area 4 SCD Cooperative Research Farm, and the Burleigh County Soil Conservation District's Menoken Farm.

Throughout the meeting, attendees were able to hear from conservation leaders who shared their experiences addressing changing natural resource challenges in their regions. Keynote speakers, panelists, and board members addressed the importance of partnerships to delivering successful conservation now and in the future.

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About the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD)

The National Association of Conservation Districts is the nonprofit organization that represents the nearly 3,000 conservation districts across the United States, their state and territory associations, and the 17,000 individuals who serve on their governing boards. For more than 75 years, local conservation districts have worked with cooperating landowners and managers of private working lands to help them plan and apply effective conservation practices. For more information about NACD, visit www.nacdnet.org.

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