



# Partnerships & Financial Structure

**Purpose:** To understand the organizational structure of North Dakota's Soil Conservation Districts, the financial support for operations, as well as partnerships with local, state, and national groups focused on conservation.

**State Soil Conservation Committee (SSCC):** A State Agency comprised of 7 voting members, 5 elected and 2 appointed by the Governor. It is responsible for funding administration, regulations of local soil conservation districts and oversees supervisor trainings. The SSCC receives its funding from state legislation as well as grants. There are 6 advisory members (non-voting) representing the North Dakota Association of Soil Conservation Districts, NDSU Extension, Natural Resources Conservation Service, State Water Commission, Commissioner of Agriculture, and the Game and Fish Department.

**ND State Legislature:** The originators of laws and regulations directives governing soil conservation districts being as they are subdivisions of state government. The legislature also provides operating funds and assistance

**NDSU Extension Soil Conservation Program Leader:** Furnishes technical guidance and leadership to the conservation district board in the development and implementation of the district's goals and priorities. The program leader also acts as a coordinator and facilitator of the SSCC and shall assist the committee in performing the committee's duties, within the limits of legislative appropriation. The program leader receives funding through the NDSU Extension budget as well as grants.

**USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service:** Provides technical assistance in the development, analysis, and use of natural

resources data in the district, including collection of information on soil resources, existing land use, conservation treatment needs, and interpreting and explaining summarized data to other agencies and groups. NRCS is funded through federal appropriations in the Farm Bill.

Conservation technical assistance is the help NRCS and its partners provide to land users to address opportunities, concerns, and problems related to the use of natural resources and to help land users make sound natural resource management decisions on private, tribal, and other **non**-federal lands.

**ND Forest Service, ND Department of Ag, & ND Game and Fish:** Providing technical assistance to soil conservation districts, supporting district plans, and aiding in projects. All state agencies receive funding from state appropriations as well as federal pass through funding when available.

**North Dakota Health Department:** Monitors the health of North Dakota watersheds through sampling and analysis of water quality and aquatic life in lakes, rivers, streams and reservoirs. Plans are developed to achieve improvements in water quality and provides cost share assistance, information and education to help meet water quality goals.

**NDASCD:** The lobbying body for legislation proposals at the state capitol. The purpose of the North Dakota Association of Soil Conservation Districts is to further the widespread application of sound and practical soil and water conservation practices in North Dakota. Their goal is to provide quality membership services and nursery products to carry out the soil conservation program for the 54 soil conservation districts of North Dakota.



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**NDSU Extension:** A collaborative partnership providing local residents educational programming to increase conservation awareness and practice across North Dakota. Extension is funded by local, state and federal appropriations.

**ND Conservation District Employee Association (NDCDEA):** promotes professionalism among Conservation District employees to enable them to carry out the duties of their position. A means to provide the tools necessary for developing and maintaining an adequate education program. NDCDEA also holds educational seminars to encourage SCD employee development. One component is to promote conservation education in North Dakota through NDCDEA sponsored activities.

**National Association of Conservation Districts:** provides a unified, national voice for conservation districts across the United States. NACD's board of directors selects conservation policy priorities which are used to develop and review federal environmental and natural resources legislation and to secure adequate federal funding for NRCS programs. The National association is committed to promoting soil health across the nation through outreach and research.

**Watershed Coordinators:** delivers technical guidance to sponsors of watersheds in developing program schedules, securing land rights, contracting for construction, and other activities incident to organizations, installation, operation and maintenance of watersheds.

**SCD District Employees:** Performs various administrative, secretarial and technician duties. Carries out policies and operates within the guidelines set forth by the board of supervisors. Provides day-to-day coordination

of District activities and serves as the District's representative to other agencies, organizations and the general public. Provides support services for the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Employees are funded through local mill levies, grants, and district sales.