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RHONDA M. KELSCH

OBJECTIVE Executive Director
North Dakota Association of Soil Conservation Districts

INITIATIVES AND
POLICY
DEVELOPMENT

National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) Legislative Committee

- Provide input and research agricultural issues for program policy

National Association of Conservation Districts – Farm Bill Task Force

- Address natural resource conservation issues to be directed with the past and current USDA Farm Bill development

USDA NHQ Field Office Productivity Review in Kansas

- Observe, research deficiencies, and report streamlining objectives to better utilize USDA dollars

USDA/NACD Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy development

- Research and collaborate with underserved, socially disadvantaged, and minorities to develop an all-inclusive USDA delivery approach

National Conservation Planning Partnership (NCP) Leadership

- Develop policy and tools to increase overall effectiveness in recommended systems or individual conservation practices

National Employee Development Board (NEDB)

- Survey staffing efficiencies, training needs, and partnership collaboration for employee retention and job approval authority

USDA/NRCS Task Force on Local Work Group

- Developed guidelines and parameters on effective facilitation of agricultural forums for local and state natural resource concerns

EXPERIENCE **EMMONS COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR**
July 2002 to July 2022
Develop agricultural cost share programs for practice implementation
Facilitate producer meetings on agriculture trends and program developments
Coordinate with agricultural producers to address local, state and national directives
Field assessments for USDA practice installation
Grant administrator for over 10 million dollars of conservation delivery funds in ND

NORTH DAKOTA ASSOCIATION OF SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICTS – EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
July 2023 to current
Secured technical assistance funding to the local soil conservation districts
Develop policy and program guidance conservation delivery with the SCD's
Deliver new conservation programs to the state of North Dakota

TECHNICAL ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER – OUTDOOR HERITAGE FUND

Governor Appointment 2013 to Current

Representing the North Dakota Soil Conservation Districts

Provide technical review to advisory board members on project consideration. Researching cost allocations for grant requests and conservation practice implementation guidance on submission of applications. Instrumental in the policy development and application process from the conception of the Outdoor Heritage Fund.

EDUCATION

STRASBURG PUBLIC SCHOOL – STRASBURG, ND

Graduated May 1995

DAKOTA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY – MITCHELL, SD

1995-1998 with course work in Business Administration and Marketing

POLICY DELIVERY

- Composed white papers for agency representatives for legislative session
- Coordinated Public Service Announcements for conservation programs
- Partner forums with national leadership including Natural Resource Conservation Service Chief, National Association of State Conservation Agencies, National Rural Council and Development, and National Association of Conservation Districts.
- Hosted agricultural forums for local, state, and national representatives
- Facilitated national agriculture listening forums for producers on the core issues of conservation delivery, program assistance and economic factors
- Reviewed and coordinated Memorandum of Understanding between local and federal partnerships
- Provide input and review policy changes through the ND State Technical committee with numerous agricultural entities

**PROFESSIONAL
ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

2013 NDSU Natural Resource Professional Recipient

Partner collaboration for 10 million dollars in conservation funds for ND

ND Statewide Agriculture Marketing Initiative Lead for program awareness

Dakota Access negotiations for additional conservation funds acquired

Partnered in a climate smart delivery mechanism with ND Farmers Union

Developed an operational policy manual for Soil Conservation Districts

Coordinated two television PSA's highlighting conservation practices
