

NACD Northeast Region Meeting- Draft Agenda

August 24-27 | Chase Center on the Riverfront, Wilmington, DE

Off Site	Governor's Hall	Christina Ballroom	H&H Combined	Lobdell	Pusey & Jones
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Monday, August 24

NACDE Tour					
12 pm - 6 pm					
		Welcome Dinner			
		6 pm -8 pm			

Tuesday, August 25

Breakfast (7 am - 8 am)					
		Opening Session			
		8 am - 9:45 am			
Break (9:45 am - 10 am)					
			Management Excellence	Cultivating New Leaders in Conservation	Expanding the Mission in Nontraditional Ways
			10 am - 12 pm		
Lunch (12 pm - 1 pm)					
			1 pm - 3 pm	Engaging the Community: Outreach, Education, and Urban Growth	Smart Conservation: Innovative Tools & Technologies for Implementation
Break (3 pm - 3:30 pm)					
			3:30 pm - 5 pm	Engaging the Community (cont.)	Smart Conservation (cont.)
		Reception (5 pm - 6 pm)			
		& Movie (in Auditorium)			
Dinner on your own					

Wednesday, August 26

Breakfast (7 am - 8 am)					
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			Management Excellence	Funding the Mission: Expanding Revenue and Building Capacity	Adapting to New Land Use: Emerging Conservation Issues in Developed Land Uses
			8:00 am - 10:00 am		
	Break (10 am - 10:30 am)				
			10:30 am - 12:00 am	Federal Agency Forum: Policy, Programs, and Perspectives	Policy in Action: The District's Role in Legislative Change
	Pick up boxed lunches				
Field Trip- Delaware Food Bank & UD Research			1 pm - 5 pm (with break)		
	Dinner on your own				

Thursday, August 27

Breakfast (7:00 am - 8:00 am)					
			Management Excellence	Partner Meetings	NACD Session
			8 am - 12 pm	(rooms will be assigned as requested/needed)	

Breakout Sessions:

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Cultivating New Leaders in Conservation					
This session focuses on the vital work of identifying, mentoring, and empowering the next generation of conservation professionals and district leaders. Through a series of presentations and a collaborative roundtable, participants will explore successful models for youth engagement, student associate programs, and the essential leadership skills required to lead a district with vision and effectiveness.					
Funding the Mission: Expanding Revenue and Building Capacity					
This track focuses on the essential business of sustaining district operations, detailing successful, practical strategies for expanding Revenue Sources for Districts (e.g., diversifying grants, fee structures, local funding). Presentations will also showcase effective models for Partnerships to Build District Capacity, including how to successfully leverage Corporate Sustainability Initiatives and develop impactful Public-Private Partnerships that strengthen district resources and expertise.					
Adapting to New Land Use: Emerging Conservation Issues in Developed Land Uses					
This critical track explores how conservation districts are innovating their work in the face of rapid development. We seek proposals that detail real-world examples of how districts are adapting their work based on the increasing development in solar operations, data centers, warehouses, etc. Presentations will highlight practical mitigation strategies, planning adaptations, and implementation protocols that ensure resource protection alongside development.					
Expanding the Mission in Nontraditional Ways					
Discover how districts are pushing the boundaries of traditional resource management to address unique regional needs and emerging environmental priorities. This session showcases innovative approaches to conservation—ranging from coastal and aquatic restoration projects to the development of diverse, multi-partner coalitions—offering a roadmap for districts looking to broaden their impact and community relevance.					
Smart Conservation: Innovative Tools & Technologies for Implementation					
This track is dedicated to the adoption of cutting-edge technology to increase efficiency and impact. We invite presentations that feature the practical application of Innovative Tools & Technologies (not just the theory), including Remote Sensing, AI, Customer Service Management (CSM), Project Management, and Implementation Tracking & Reporting Tools. Presentations focus on how these tools are currently being used in local districts to solve real conservation problems and measure success.					
Engaging the Community: Outreach, Education, and Urban Growth					
This track focuses on effective engagement and reaching new audiences. Presenters will share proven methods for Effective Outreach & Education strategies that lead directly to conservation adoption. We'll offer practical success stories and models related to Urban and Community Agriculture, including how districts are supporting these efforts and integrating conservation practices into non-traditional settings to address local food security and environmental issues.					
Policy in Action: The District's Role in Legislative Change					
This track examines the direct influence districts have on the regulatory landscape. Presentations will analyze and detail the successful, on-the-ground impact of districts within policymaking at the federal, state, and local levels, and include examples of effective advocacy, coalition building, and how districts successfully translate local conservation needs into actionable public policy.					
Federal Agency Forum: Policy, Programs, and Perspectives					
Engage directly with our federal partners from the NRCS, EPA, and Forest Service during this 90-minute deep dive into the latest conservation priorities and inter-agency initiatives. Featuring a leadership panel with Astor Boozer and Walt Whitcomb, this session bridges the gap between national policy and local implementation to help districts navigate the federal landscape.					