

Building Better District Boards

Presented by:

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Blake's Meddling



Reality Check

- Discussions are occurring among our groups
- Are we being honest with our boards

DID YOU KNOW?



Interesting Facts & Anecdotes

from your District Operations and Member Services Committee

By Mike Brown

Our heritage began over 75 years ago, and the accomplishments achieved by conservation districts have been nothing short of remarkable. We have transformed the American landscape from barren wastelands of the Dust Bowl era to productive working lands that support healthy wildlife populations, protect water quality, and invest in the future by promoting soil health. However,

DID YOU KNOW...

Even with state and federal assistance and guidance, we are no longer the sole source of conservation delivery? Countless enterprises – from non-profit and non-governmental organizations to corporate entities – are becoming significant players in the conservation delivery market. They offer a range of services from conservation planning to installation and implementation of conservation practices on private lands (many of which are familiar?) Many of these organizations are extremely well-funded, have the backing of wealthy foundations, and a history of annual grant funding at levels that conservation districts simply cannot fathom. They are therefore well-positioned to fare far better in the marketplace compared to conservation districts in competitive



Don't forget the basics

- Appointments
 - Successes in Arkansas
- Training
 - Stay on top of updates to training

Take a look at your statute

- We say it but are we really emphasizing the boards:
 - Role
 - Duties
 - Oath
 - Authority
- It is easy to forget some of the things included in the law

Updates in Arkansas

- Updated our district resource assessment
- Updated plan of work and goals (thank you WA State)
 - Emphasis on not only what they want to do but really **WHAT ARE YOU DOING!**
 - Again trying to get the directors to admit they may have a problem at the district level and/or the state level

Signed Statement

- Included with the Plan of Work

If your district feels it's unable to successfully engage and complete a local resource project. Please give a statement below listing current CD deficiencies handicapping these efforts and the tools you need to become able to carry out these projects (example: funding, additional district personnel, office facilities, equipment, vehicles, other agency technical assistance, city/county government or local public support, etc.).

New to Arkansas

- Board Self Evaluation
 - We finally did it (thank you WA State)
 - Tried to include heavy emphasis on: “What is your district doing?” (critical times)

Summary

- Be honest with your boards about their position
- It effects all parties involved including us as state employees
- We have to look at things differently now

Thank You!



And a Very Special Thanks to Mr. Ray Ledgerwood
for all his efforts!