

# Welcome to the New Mexico Coalition of Conservation Districts (NMCCD)

## Coalition Works to Build Capacity of Local Soil & Water Conservation Districts

Helping New Mexico’s Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) build their capacity to provide services locally is the purpose of NMCCD. Formed in 2013, the Coalition assists Districts with the conservation of natural resources in New Mexico by providing comprehensive support and ethical representation. The Coalition provides a network of experienced Board members and staff to support and assist local Districts meet their local financial, organizational, and community needs.

### What Does NMCCD Do?

- ◆ Assists with and encourages capacity building for Districts by locating funds to direct to SWDCs, providing staff training and support to respond to RFP’s, and providing project management guidance.
- ◆ Provides partnered support and professional representation during Legislative Sessions, meeting with Legislators, and attending committee meetings.
- ◆ Actively assists Districts with legislative funding applications, Legislative outreach, and attendance at legislative hearings.
- ◆ Provides a network of Board Members and Staff to assist and support districts with day-to-day operations, grant funding sources, alliance building, and community outreach.
- ◆ Acts as a frequently updated informational resource on state, regional, and national issues.
- ◆ Provides resources to educate on issues pertaining to natural resource management and conservation.
- ◆ Provides professional representation during Legislative sessions and committee meetings.
- ◆ Assists SWCD’s in responding to RFP’s and the project management process.



*We travel together ... dependent  
on ... vulnerable reserves of air and  
soil, all committed ... to it's  
security...*

Adlai E. Stevenson

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### Your Voice Counts

- NMCCD is here to help Districts be better prepared and positioned to face new challenges and opportunities

## Meet the NMCCD Board of Directors



The Coalition is governed by a Board of Directors who are members of the Coalition and are elected officials of the member Soil and Water Conservation Districts. The Board makes all policy and position decisions of the Coalition.

**President:** David King; Edgewood SWCD

**Vice President:** Aubrey Dunn; Chaves SWCD

**Secretary /Treasurer:** Joe Delk; Doña Ana SWCD

**Northern District Representative:** José J. Varela López; Santa Fe-Pojoaque SWCD

**Central District Representative:** Mark Anaya; Edgewood SWCD

**Southern District Representative:** Richard Shovelin; Claunch-Pinto SWCD

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*“Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress.  
Working together is success.”*

*Henry Ford*

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## The Importance of Land Use Planning

Over the last couple of decades many Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) have been increasingly concerned by increased federal regulations and restrictive land use designations. The concern stems from the view that such actions will reduce the economic viability of farms and ranches. The disbelief also stems from the misconception that agriculture alone is the sole reason many of our public lands are mismanaged.

So, what do we do about this alarming trend? We do our jobs as dictated by law. 73-20-44 NMSA 1978 states that, “a soil and water conservation district, organized under or perpetuated by the provisions of the Soil and Water Conservation District Act is a governmental subdivision of the state, a public body politic and corporate.” Districts may conduct a wide array of research, investigations, and surveys to facilitate conservation and development. Included, but not limited to, is the extended authority to develop comprehensive plans for natural resource conservation, development, and utilization including flood prevention, control and prevention of soil erosion and the development, utilization and disposal of water.

How do we implement the statute? Create a Land Use Plan. Protection of the customs and culture of the local area requires protection of the tax base, including the right to conserve, protect, encourage, develop and improve agricultural land for the production of agricultural products, and to reduce the loss to the state of its agricultural resources by limiting the circumstances under which agricultural operations may be deemed a nuisance.

The purpose of a Land Use Plan is to guide policy with respect to soil and water natural resource conservation. Land Use Plans should be designed to:

- (1) provide protection for the soil and water resources;
- (2) facilitate federal agency efforts to seamlessly coordinate joint efforts between federal, state and county land use decisions; and
- (3) provide strategies and policies for enhancing the conservation, improvement, and management of these resources.

### Contact the NM Coalition of Conservation Districts:

NM Coalition of  
Conservation Districts  
PO Box 1050  
Moriarty, NM 87035  
Phone: 505-392-8044  
email: ExecDir@nmccd.org  
www.nmccd.org  
Carole Glade,  
Interim Executive Director

The Board is supported by an executive team of District administrators and professionals with extensive experience in conservation.

The Coalition is staffed by an Executive Director who handles the day-to-day business and Board and membership coordination and represents the Coalition at conferences, meetings, Legislative sessions, and hearings.



**Commenting on NEPA Documents Workshop**

**February 20 , 2015  
9 AM—3 PM in Tucumcari**

Learn to write and submit substantive comments on National Environmental Policy (NEPA) Documents.

To register, contact Brenda Allen in the Southwest Quay SWCD :  
505-799-1595

## Land Use Plans Continued...

All Land Use Plans should provide a scientifically and culturally sound framework for resource planning objectives. The Plans should be considered an executable policy for natural resource management and land use on the lands within any given Soil and Water Conservation District.

**Need a Land Use Plan? The Coalition provides assistance in helping member Districts develop and file their Land Use Plan.**

**Join the Coalition today to take advantage of this member benefit.**

For more information on Land Use Plans, contact Kim Kostelnik at [kkostelnik01@comcast.net](mailto:kkostelnik01@comcast.net) or by phone at 505-553-1875.

The Mid-Region Council of Governments (MRCOG) has designated the following as the top 2015 Water Policy Recommendations. Visit [www.nmccd.org](http://www.nmccd.org) for more information.

- Support State funding assistance for the implementation and update of Regional Water Plans
- Support State funding to capitalize the Water Trust Fund in order to build a significant permanent fund for ongoing water projects of regional significance
- Establish and maintain an aquifer measurement and monitoring program
- Support statewide water conservation strategies
- Support the creation of the Forest and Watershed Restoration Fund

## Stay Informed

### Upcoming meetings, hearings, conferences, and funding opportunities:

*Advancing Riparian Restoration in the Western US*

February 10-12, 2015

Albuquerque Hotel, Albuquerque

Tamarisk Coalition

<http://www.tamariskcoalition.org/>

*2015 Land and Water Summit: Watershed CPR*

February 19-20, 2015: Sheraton Hotel, Albuquerque

Xeriscape Council - [www.xeriscapenm.com](http://www.xeriscapenm.com)

NM Legislature — Bill Finder

[http://www.nmlegis.gov/lcs/billfinder/bill\\_finder.aspx](http://www.nmlegis.gov/lcs/billfinder/bill_finder.aspx)

NM Legislative Calendar

[http://www.nmlegis.gov/lcs/interim\\_calendar.aspx](http://www.nmlegis.gov/lcs/interim_calendar.aspx)

Open Meetings Requirements

[www.nmlegis.gov](http://www.nmlegis.gov)

**Attend the NMCCD Annual Meeting  
Information Coming Soon!**

[www.nmccd.org](http://www.nmccd.org)

***“The nation that destroys its soil  
destroys itself.”***

Franklin D. Roosevelt