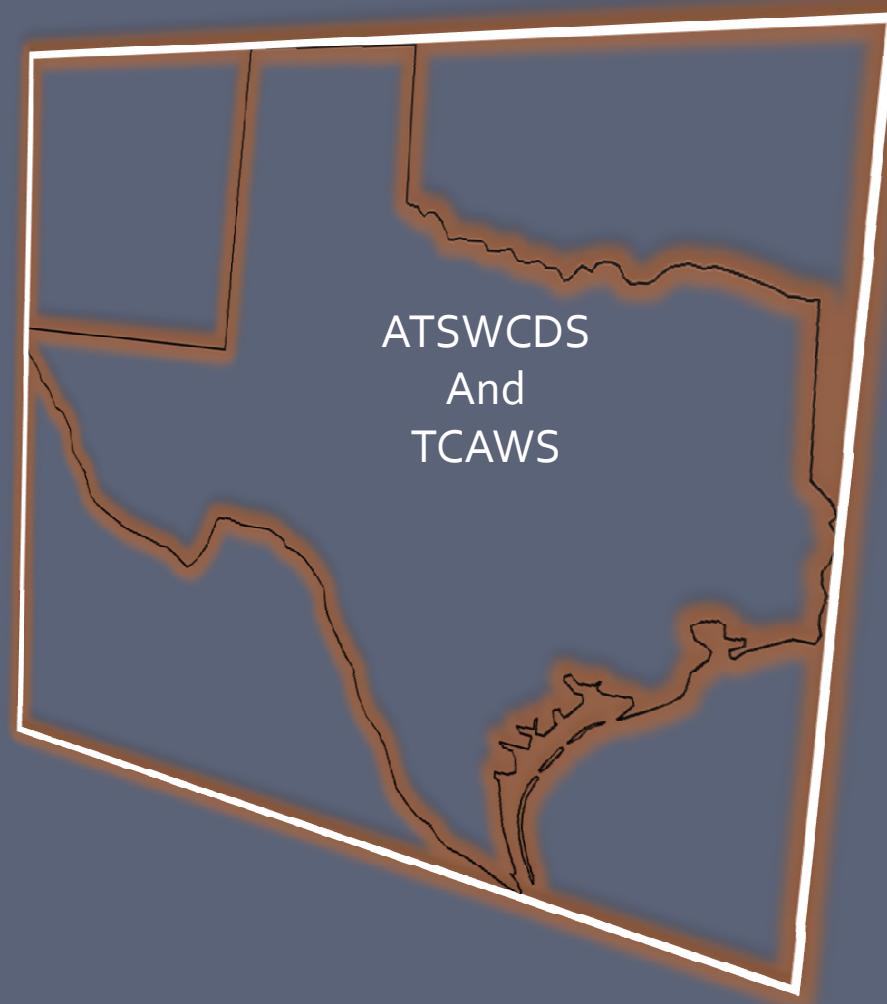


Know Your SWCD Associations



Bewildered and Puzzled ?

Let's clear the confusion

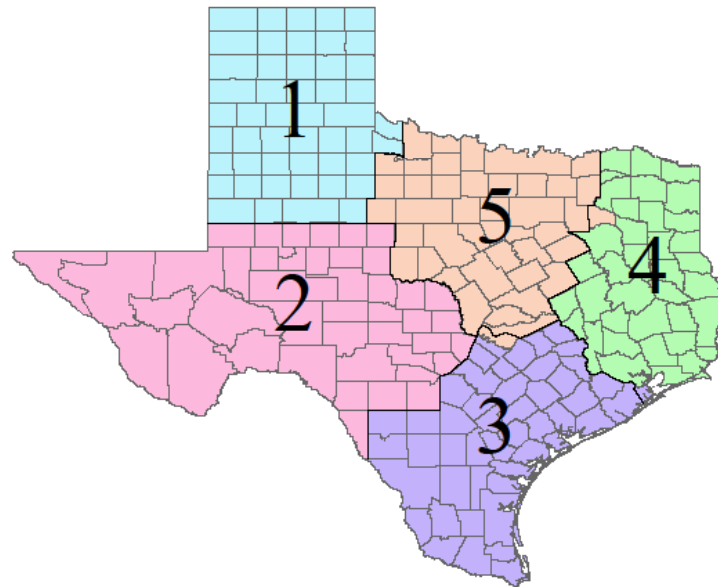
Texas State Soil and Water
Conservation Board

Association of Texas Soil and Water
Conservation Districts

Texas Conservation Association of
Water and Soil

Notice the Map

Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board
Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts
Texas Conservation Association For Water and Soil



What is the Difference?

TSSWCB

Texas State Soil & Water Conservation Board

- Agency of state government created by law to administers state conservation law.
- Coordinates and provide technical assistance to soil and water conservation districts.
- Lead agency for agricultural and silvicultural NPS programs, water supply enhancement program.

ATSWCDS

Association of Texas Soil & Water Conservation Districts

- Chartered, tax exempt, non- profit 501 (c) (3) organization.
- Works in close association with NACD and other states on national issues affecting soil, water and related natural resources.
- promote SWCDs through educational, scientific, charitable and religious activities.

Separate classifications with the IRS are not legally compatible and cannot be operated as a single entity.

TCAWS

Texas Conservation Association of Water & Soil

- Chartered, tax exempt, non- profit 501 (c) (4) organization.
- Constant presence in Austin with full time paid legislative consultants.
- All activities are directed to representing SWCD interests in Texas.

TCAWS vs. ATSWCDS

TCAWS

- Tax exempt. IRS permits unlimited political activity as a 501 (c)(4).
- Will have a constant presence in Austin to monitor & participate in legislative process for SWCDS.

ATSWCDS

- Tax exempt. IRS permits spending up to 20% of their income on political activities.
- Member of NACD & conducts political activity on national level.

TCAWS Function

Permit the hiring and retaining of full time legislative consultants in Austin to be the eyes and ears for Texas soil and water conservation districts and their programs.



Link That Connects TSSWCB & ATSWCD



Provisions of Agreement

TSSWCB Agrees to:

- Authorize Executive Director to serve as advisor to the ATSWCDS
- Authorize staff to assist the ATSWCD on areas of mutual interest under direction of Executive Director
- Authorize Executive Director to supervise ATSWCD employees

Provisions of Agreement

ATSWCD Agrees to:

- Maintain an office close to TSSWCB
- Provide its own supplies and office equipment
- Employ a secretary in concurrence with Executive Director

How the ATSWCD & TCAWS are Governed



ATSWCD & TCAWS are
each governed by
separate By-laws

Each Document Includes

- Organization of the ATSWCD or TCAWS
- Structure
- Function
- Procedures of Operation

Membership

ATSWCDS

Voting Membership

- Every SWCD is a voting member unless membership is expressly declined)
- Each SWCD is entitled to two votes on every question put to a vote
- Votes must be cast by two delegates who must be SWCD directors

TCAWS

Voting Membership

- Every SWCD is a voting member unless membership is expressly declined)
- Each SWCD is entitled to two votes on every question put to a vote
- Votes must be cast by two delegates who must be SWCD directors

Membership Dues

- ▣ Each SWCD is asked to pay annual quotas.
- ▣ Quotas are set annually by the ATSWCD and TCAWS Board of Directors.
- ▣ Quotas are voluntary.



Quota Structure

ATSWCDS

Assessment per SWCD

- ▣ \$425 for operations
- ▣ \$200 for PI/Education program.
- ▣ \$ 50 for Texas Conservation. Awards program
- ▣ **Total = \$675.00**

TCAWS

Assessment per SWCD

- ▣ \$500 for operations and consultant fees
- ▣ **Total = \$500**

TSSWCB, ATSWCD & TCAWS Elections

TSSWCB members are elected on 1st. Tuesday in May.

Directors of the ATSWCD and TCAWS are elected at the annual meeting of SWCD Directors (Usually October)

- Areas 2 & 4--Even Years
- Areas 1,3, & 5-- Odd Years



Who's Eligible to Serve on the ATSWCD or TCAWS Board?

Directors of either ATSWCDS
or TECAWS Boards

- Must be a district cooperators
- Must have served two years as a SWCD Director and
- Candidate's home SWCD must be current on its quota payments

Official Meetings

- TSSWCB required by law to call an annual meeting of SWCDS; therefore,
- ATSWCD & TCAWS hold their annual meetings in conjunction with the annual meeting of SWCD directors called by the TSSWCB. (Usually October)
- Both the ATSWCD and TCAWS Board of Directors hold additional meetings as called by the President of each organization

How ATSWCD & TCAWS Officers are Elected

Both the ATSWCD and TCAWS President and Vice-President are elected at the annual meeting of SWCD directors by a written ballot vote



How ATSWCD & TCAWS Officers are Elected

- President-- Elected from 5 elected members of ATSWCD and TCAWS Board of Directors (or any person filling the Unexpired term of President)
- Vice-President-- Elected in the same manner as the President from the remaining persons eligible to serve as president.
- Secretary/Treasurer-- Appointed by the ATSWCD and TCAWS Board of Directors

A Focus on ATSWCD Committees

- Audit Committee-- Responsible for conducting a review of the ATSWCD financial books and records.
- Soil & Water Stewardship-- Provides materials and coordinates statewide activities to promote annual soil stewardship week.

A Focus on ATSWCD Committees

- “Committee of 100” (Formerly called “Legislative Committee”)-- Responds to various legislative and program issues affecting the state’s soil and water conservation program.
- Other Committees (Examples)
 - Cropland Conservation Committee
 - Water Resources Committee

Resolutions Committees

Must approve all resolutions submitted by SWCDS prior to being considered at the annual meeting of SWCD Directors.



ATSWCD & TCAWS Resolutions

- SWCDS may submit resolutions to the President (no later than 60 days prior to the annual meeting)
- Resolutions must be approved by Resolutions Committee before being presented to directors in convention.
- Board of Directors may present resolutions at any time.

Public Information Committee

Under the Umbrella of the ATSWCDS

Known as the “PI&E” Program, it originated in 1976 as a result of a resolution passed at the 36th annual meeting of SWCD Directors

- The resolution called for a public awareness program to be directed by a public information committee.

Intent of the PI Program

- Inform public about SWCDS
- Conservation is a perpetual process
- Landowners are conscientious environmentalists
- Private property rights be respected and that conservation programs be flexible, voluntary and locally controlled

How the PI Program is Funded

- Voluntary \$200/yr. assessment
- Funds are deposited into a special account apart from the ATSWCD's operating funds
- Administration of funds-- The funds are administered by the ATSWCD board of directors; however the appointed PI Committee develops an annual budget, sets program priorities, and oversees the expenditures of the funds.

How the PI Program is Funded

- Annual budget-- must be approved by the ATSWCD board of directors.
- Resolution mandate-- Note that the resolutions passed by SWCDS which established the PI program mandates that the program's funds be kept separate and apart from the ATSWCDS operating funds. To change the establishing resolution's intent would require a majority approval of Texas SWCDs at their annual meeting.

Usage of Funds

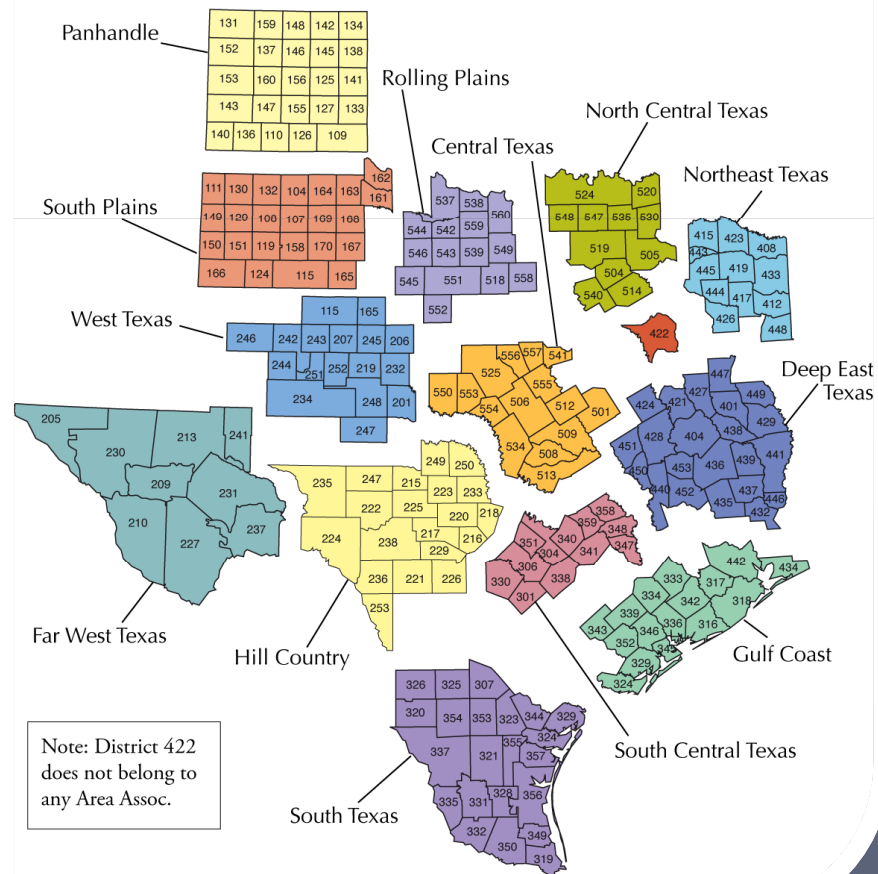
- Examples on Use of Funds—
 1. Employee workshops
 2. WAY regional contests and woodland contests
 3. Director Training
 4. Soil Stewardship Public Speaking Contest
 5. Promotional Items
 6. Legislative luncheon during legis. session

Area Associations of SWCDS

- State currently divided into 13 area associations
- Provides opportunity for leadership development
- Provides opportunity to develop lines of communication
- Provides opportunity to deal with issues of regional concern

Map of Area Associations

AREA ASSOCIATIONS OF SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS



Who and what is NACD?



Who and what is NACD?



The National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) is a **nonprofit** organization that represents America's **3,000** conservation districts and the **17,000** men and women who serve on their governing boards.

NACD'S Mission

- ▶ NACD's mission is to serve conservation districts by providing national leadership and a unified voice for natural resource conservation.



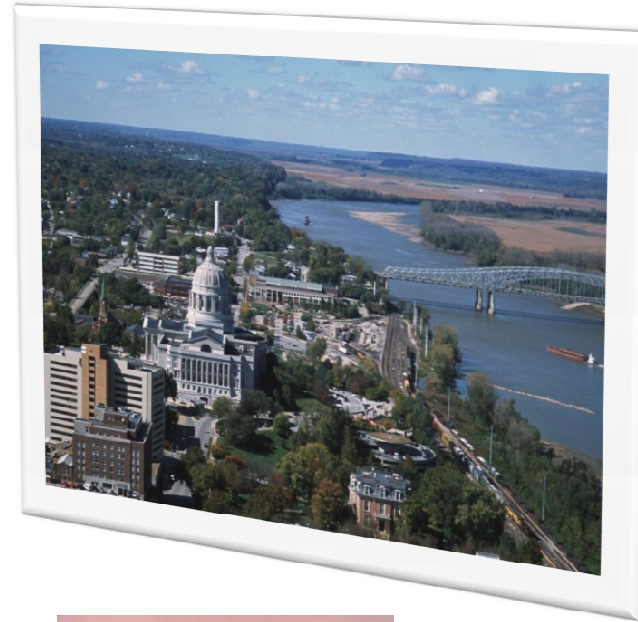
NACD'S Mission



- ▶ NACD is driven by individual State Associations and is an advocate for strong conservation programs, appropriations and policies at the federal level that enables SWCDS to produce results at the local level.

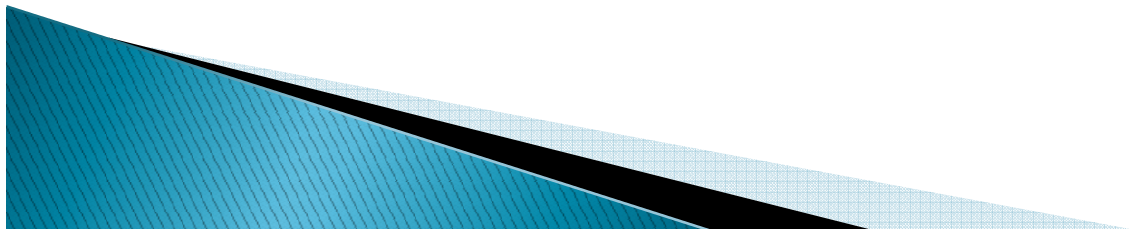
NACD's Philosophy

- ▶ NACD was founded on the philosophy that conservation decisions should be made at the local level with technical and funding assistance from federal, state and local governments and the private sector.
- ▶ NACD supports voluntary, incentive-driven natural resource conservation programs.



What NACD Does

- ▶ Build and maintain strong working relationships with Congress and federal agency partners.
- ▶ Work to ensure conservation districts are well represented when key policy and regulatory decisions are being made.
- ▶ Serve as a reliable source of credible information for the media, government agencies, the membership and general public regarding natural resource challenges and opportunities



How NACD IS Funded



- ▶ NACD is primarily financed through voluntary contributions of its member districts and state associations.

NACD Officers

The Officers of the Association include:

- President,
- First Vice President,
- Second Vice President,
- Secretary–Treasurer
- Chief Exec Officer.

▶ The officers of NACD, with the exception of the Chief Executive Officer, are nominated by a committee appointed by the President. The officers are elected by the Board of Directors for a term of two years.

NACD Organization

Executive Board

Develops an annual budget
Appoints Chief Ex. Officer

Recommends Policy
Guides Annual Meeting Planning

Board of Directors

Policy Making Body
Provides Overall Guidance to NACD

Consists of 1 voting rep. & 1 alternate from each State Assn.

The End

