

Community Relations Officer



Community Relations Officer

- n State Position

- n DNREC

- n Division of Soil & Water Conservation

- n District Operations Section



- n Provide services to:

- n Delaware Association of Conservation Districts (DACD)

- n Sussex Conservation District (SCD)

- n Kent Conservation District (KCD)

- n New Castle Conservation District (NCCD)

- n Division of Soil & Water Conservation (DSWC)

- n USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Genesis of Position

- n DACD Long Range Planning (2005 – 2010)
 - n February 2004
 - n Reviewed mission and history
 - n Worked through a needs assessment (identified strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and challenges)
 - n Began developing action plan to address issues
 - n November 2004
 - n Developed a vision (desired future)
 - n Developed a working action plan

DACD's Mission

- n Facilitate collaboration between districts and partners
 - ? equipment ? programs ? staff
- n Develop/conduct conservation education programs
 - ? Envirothon ? family programming ? public education
- n Build fiscal independence of the districts
 - ? long range development plan ? legislative support ? marketing

DACD's Vision

- n "the" voice for district issues
- n Resource center for districts, policymakers, constituents, and youth
- n Hub for conservation partners
- n Provider of common services to districts
 - n Grant writing

Action Plan

- n By January 2007

- n Hire Executive Director – not hired

- n Hire Administrative Assistant – not hired

- n Hire Environmental Educator – needed immediately

- n Envirothon

- n Public education

- n Marketing

Position Details

- n Employed by the State (Nov. 2007)
 - n Report to District Operations Program Administrator
 - n Work determined by needs of the Partners
- n Funding
 - n Conservation districts
 - n USDA NRCS
 - n Division of Soil & Water Conservation

Community Outreach Plan
2008 Highlights

1st Quarter (January - March)

Annual Reports:
DACD
KCD
SCD
District Operations (year in review)

Legislator Letters (Districts)

Farm Bill Programs Outreach (NRCS):
CSP/GRP/WRP
EQIP/AMA/WHIP
Soils

Stewardship Week

Delaware Environment

SCD Quarterly Newsletter (mailing)

NRCS Quarterly Report

Weekly Governor's Report

News Releases

3rd Quarter (July - September)

Legislator Letters (Districts)

KCD Barn Dance

Cover Crop & Cost-Share Program
Publicity
Sign-up Assistance (SCD)

NRCS Outreach Assistance

NACD Poster Contest Promotion

Coast Day Preparation

Delaware Environment

SCD Quarterly Newsletter (mailing)

NRCS Quarterly Report

Weekly Governor's Report

News Releases

2nd Quarter (April - June)

Stewardship Week

Delaware Environment

District Operations Annual Report (final)

NRCS Outreach Assistance

State Fair preparations

SCD Quarterly Newsletter (mailing)

NRCS Quarterly Report

Weekly Governor's Report

News Releases

4th Quarter (October - December)

Annual Reports:
DACD
KCD
SCD
District Operations (year in review)

Legislator Letters (Districts)

NRCS Outreach Assistance

Tax Ditch Annual Meeting Publicity

NACD Poster Contest - Local Level Competition

SCD Quarterly Newsletter (mailing)

NRCS Quarterly Report

Weekly Governor's Report

Delaware Environment

News Releases

Work Plan

Tax Ditch Basics



What is a tax ditch?

A tax ditch is a governmental subdivision of the State. It is a watershed-based organization formed by a prescribed legal process in Superior Court. It has a boundary that outlines the area that is served by the water management practice. The landowners (also called taxables) in each watershed elect managers to administer the plan of operations that is approved by a vote of the landowners. Tax ditches are authorized by Chapter 41 of Title 7 of the Delaware Code.

How many tax ditches are there?

There are 228 tax ditches statewide. New Castle County has 26, Kent County has 78, and Sussex County has 124.

How big is a tax ditch and how much land does it affect?

Approximately 27% of Delaware's land mass is managed by the State's 228 tax ditch organizations. Tax ditches range in size from a small two-acre system to the largest 56,000-acre system. There are just over 2,000 miles of tax ditches in Delaware. In New Castle County there are 56 miles, while Kent County has 746 miles and Sussex County has 1,270 miles. Approximately 30,800 properties in the State are within tax ditch organizations.

Why does Delaware have so many tax ditches and who benefits from them?

Just about everyone benefits, either directly or indirectly, from tax ditches. Most of Delaware is flat with a high water table so the ditches have been constructed to help take the excess water off the land so it can be used for farming, buildings and roads. Many of the towns in western and southern Delaware have tax ditches as their drainage outlets. Many "strip developments" and rural subdivisions rely on tax ditches to prevent flooding of their communities.

Who makes up the tax ditch organization?

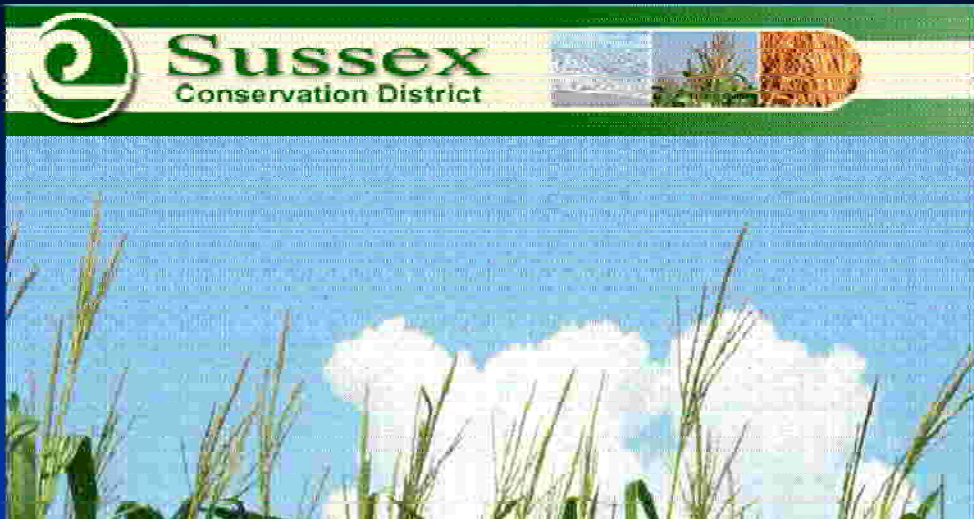
Owners of property within the drainage boundaries of the tax ditch are part of the tax ditch organization because they benefit directly or indirectly from the drainage provided by the tax ditch.

Are there any rights-of-way (ROW) associated with tax ditches?

Yes. Permanent rights-of-way (ROW) were established for affected properties during the legal process to establish the tax ditch. The purpose of the ROW is to have access for construction and maintenance activities. Of the approximately 30,800 properties in tax ditch organizations in Delaware, 45% of them have a tax ditch right-of-way located on their property.

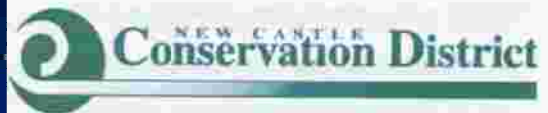


Documents



Documents





"Dedicated to Soil and Water Management"



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Documents

News Releases

- n Forest Buffer Restored Along Pike Creek Near Newark
- n Fred West Re-elected to Sussex Conservation District Board
- n 'Water is Life' Stewardship Materials Available Now to Educators and Group Leaders
- n Draft Report on Level of Service and Funding for Surface Water Management in Sussex County to Be Discussed at Public Workshop
- n Annual Agricultural and Urban Governor's Conservation Award Winners Honored Today
- n Nitrogen Tests for Manured Soils Available to Corn Growers
- n Landowners Reminded to Report their Cover Crop Acreage
- n Cost-share Applications for Cover Crops and Conservation Practices to Be Accepted July 30 – Aug. 6
- n Charter School of Wilmington Wins 2008 Canon Envirothon Competition in Arizona

Outreach Events



DSWA Earth Day Celebration



University of Delaware
Ag Day



Delaware State Fair



DE/MD Joint Water Festival

Delaware Envirothon

n Planning Committee Chairperson



Canon Envirothon Champions

2008



Delaware Envirothon

n Barn Dance Fundraiser (KCD)

n 11th Annual

n BBQ Dinner

n Live/Silent Auctions

n DJ & Dancing

n Profits to date = \$94,542



Other Tasks

- n Plan/coordinate public workshops (CSP)
- n Submit news for NRCS e-NewsBytes
- n Develop education/outreach plan for tax ditch program
- n Legislator letters
- n Governor's talking points for awards presentations during Stewardship Week

Community Relations Officer

