# Director Leadership Development Program

NASCA STATE STAFF SHARING SESSION

OCTOBER 2022

### District Directors – Oklahoma Basics

84 conservation districts

Governing body of each conservation district is a district board

Each district board is made up of 5 district directors

84 conservation districts x 5 district directors = 420 individuals (not counting associate directors)

No statutory or rule authority to require directors to complete ANY continuing education/training – everything is voluntary

# OACD Leadership Class

Organized and led by the Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts

Work in conjunction with a variety of partners to deliver the program

A statewide educational conservation focused leadership development program

One class each "year" (current class will graduate in May 2023)

Participating directors complete several classes pertaining to conservation in Oklahoma

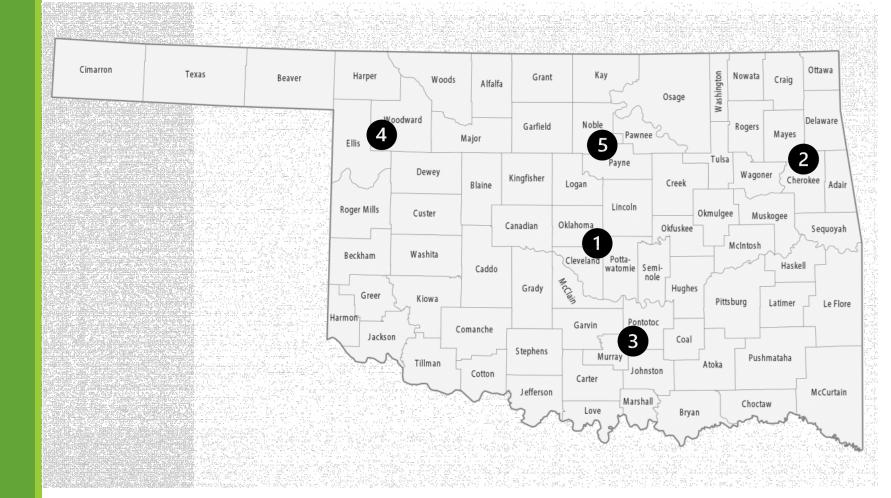


#### Sessions

Each session is spread over two days.

- District Management & Operation, History of Conservation, & the Legislative Process
- 2. Water Quality
- Upstream Flood Control & Cost-Share Programs
- Soil Health & Conservation Planning
- Conservation Partnership, Land Reclamation & Erosion, Diversity/Equity/Inclusion

Upon completion of the program, participants will officially "graduate"



# Admissions

Interested directors must apply; district board must agree

Must be currently serving or an associate director

Preference is given to newer serving directors

Classes are limited to 20 participants



# Support

OACD PROVIDES

**OCC & OTHER PARTNERS PROVIDE** 

Planning

Financing Technical & Equipment Resources

Class Programming

Staff

Limited Financial Assistance

Food

Travel

Lodging



## Structure

Each class is 2 days – beginning mid-morning day 1, ending by mid-afternoon day 2

Lodging and meal costs are covered by OACD

Travel and time away from home are participants only expenses

Conservation districts with participating directors often cover mileage

All session include a mix of "classroom" time + hands-on activities in the field





# **Bonus Activities**

Additional time is also given during each session to explore and learn solo

- Capitol visit to tour the building and view the chamber in session
- Tour of the Oklahoma History Center
- Visit to the Cherokee Nation Heirloom Garden & Native Plant Site
- Tour of the Chickasaw Cultural Center







# Interactions & Contacts

Participating directors have opportunity to meet and interact with a variety of vital contacts for their local conservation district

- Secretary of Ag, Blayne Arthur
- Breakfast with the legislature; hosted by Rep. Carl Newton
- NRCS State Conservationist, Gary O'Neill
- NACD Director of Education, Keith Owen, and South Central Region Rep, Wesley Gibson
- Congressman Frank Lucas
- Cherokee Nation
- National Watershed Coalition Executive Director, Dan Sebert
- Chickasaw Nation



## Drawbacks

Small program (only 4% of directors in each cohort)

Expensive

Time intensive



#### Clancy Green

DISTRICT SERVICES DIRECTOR OKLAHOMA CONSERVATION COMMISSION P: 405.522.2111 E: CLANCY.GREEN@CONSERVATION.OK.GOV