



A cleaner environment, naturally.

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To: Coteau Area Districts

From: Neil Bien, area director

The **Coteau area meeting** will be **Thursday, June 12, 2008**, beginning at **9:00 am** (CT) in the **Courthouse** basement in **Webster, SD**. Registration begins at 8:40 am. Below is a draft agenda for the meeting. I understand the employees know whose turn it is in the rotation of coffee/cookies, minute taking, and nominations.

#### Convene Business Meeting

##### Speeches of State Speech Contest Area Finalists

Contestants in this spring's state conservation speech contest are invited to present their winning speeches. ***Districts*** - *please make sure your contestants who went to state speech contest are invited.*

##### Minutes of 2007 meeting

##### Legislative re-cap

We'll review state and national legislative efforts including funding for the Conservation Fund, ag property tax reform, evaluation of the State's public dams, USDA conservation technical assistance, and federal appropriations We will also discuss a ballot initiative to prohibit taxpayer funds being used for any legislative activities.

##### Farm Bill implementation

When (if) a Farm Bill is adopted, what lies ahead for conservation districts and their customers?

##### District official accreditation

The National Association of Conservation Districts initiated a pilot program in seven states to develop a district official accreditation program. The voluntary program's goal is to empower district officials to be more effective and comfortable with their role as local environmental leaders and government officials.

##### CREP for the James River (Coteau, North Missouri, and South James-Missouri areas)

The Dept of Game, Fish & Parks (SD GF&P) identified the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) as a powerful tool to meet new goals identified in a broad based initiative aimed at providing additional undisturbed habitat for wildlife and public hunting and fishing access. Learn more about the CREP proposal within the James River Watershed Basin to include the voluntary enrollment of 100,000 acres, with a minimum size of 40 acres and will be associated with public hunting and fishing access. Existing conservation practices available through the CRP will be used to establish permanent vegetative cover to meet the program goals and objectives.

##### Reports

Area Treasurer or Speech Contest Treasurer Report (if applicable)

SDACD President's Report - Irwin Symens or his representative

SDACD Membership Report - Angela Ehlers

##### Reports From Each Conservation District

Each conservation district is requested to provide 35 copies of the "2008 CD Report to Area Meeting" updating their district's activities/major projects and then the district's supervisors should be available to discuss/answer questions. The form is on the ***districts only*** section of the website and has also been e-mailed to all conservation districts.

##### SDACD By-Law Change Proposals

Proposals must be submitted to the conservation districts in writing at least 30 days in advance of the state convention. If you have any proposals, please bring with you enough copies to hand out (approximately 35).

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**SDACD Committee Reports:**

Each committee chair will provide a short written report of their activities and then the area committee representatives should be available to discuss/answer questions.

District capacity - Wilbur Letze

Public Relations - Larry Brusse

Natural Resources Stewardship - Dave Mendel

**SDACD Policy Resolution Proposals**

Proposals may also be submitted at the convention, but districts have time to discuss them if they are presented at the area meetings. If you have any proposals, please bring with you enough copies to hand out (approximately 50).

**Area Endowment Honoree Selection**

Members are requested to bring to their area meeting suggestions on an individual or organization the area wishes to honor with the President's Club or Governor's Award within the Endowment Fund. President's Club requires \$1,000 in donations, Governor's Award is \$2,000. The local district of the honoree coordinates the fund raising effort. SDACD needs to be notified by September 1 if enough contributions have been or will be received to qualify for either President's Club or Governor's Award so that plaques can be ordered in time for presentation at convention.

**Area Director & Committees Elections**

2-year area director term for Coteau

3-year terms for all members of District Capacity Committee

Unexpired terms that may be open: Natural Resources Stewardship would be 2 years

Public Relations would be 1 year

**Area Legislative Meetings**

The area legislative meetings will be a vital link to strengthen support for conservation district funding, especially since this is an election year.

**Big Sioux Nursery Report**

**Other Business:**