**SOUTH DAKOTA CONSERVATION DISTRICT EMPLOYEES**

**ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2019**

Vision Statement: ***To promote the professional development of its members, creating leaders with the skills and knowledge to deliver our conservation message.***

A. GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Enjoyed our working relationship with NRCS, Department of Ag, and

SDACD.

2. Updated and revised our Long Range Plan.

3. Created a new ‘Vision’ Statement.

4. Updated and revised the SDACDE By-Laws.

5. Updated and revised our Committees for SDACDE, and created a ‘Duties’

description.

6. Created a Legislative Committee to work with SDACD on legislative issues

and work on funding ideas for Conservation Districts.

7. Created our first Annual Report.

8. Established official partner status with the S.D. Grassland Coalition and the

S.D. Soil Health Coalition.

9. Represented SDACDE at the NACD Annual Convention in San Antonio

Texas.

10. Represented SDACDE at Northern Plains Regional meetings and

teleconferences, and attended the Northern Plains Regional Annual

meeting in Gothenburg, NE.

11. Represented SDACDE at the NCDEA meetings and teleconferences.

12. Represented SDACDE at the SDACD meetings and teleconferences.

13. Represented SDACDE at the Conservation Commission meetings and

teleconferences.

14. Represented SDACDE at the State Technical Committee meetings.

15. Sponsored a 50/50 drawing and Raffle for entertainment at the SDACD

Convention and to raise funds for SDACDE Scholarships and activities.

B. PUBLIC AWARENESS OF CONSERVATION

1. Submitted and were awarded a grant for the SD Public Awareness through

the Conservation Commission.

2. Participated at the S.D. State Fair in Huron, Central States Fair in Rapid City,

and Dakota Fest in Mitchell with booths, information, and promotional

items give away.

3. Created and maintain a SDACDE Face Book page for conservation

promotion.

4. Awarded 3 $500 scholarships to students pursuing careers in agriculture

and/or conservation. The name was changed from the Karst Memorial

Scholarship to the S.D. Conservation Districts Memorial Scholarship.

5. Started creating plans to address the Emerald Ash Borer issues.

C. EMPLOYEE DEVELOPMENT

1. Sponsored the Leadership Training Conference for S.D. Conservation

District employees in March in Pierre.

2. Updated and revised the Employees Handbook. Binders with the handbook

were provided to all Conservation Districts in S.D.

3. Provided ‘New Employee Packets’ to all new employees joining the

Conservation Districts. Each Area Director welcomes new employees with

the packets.

4. Created a ‘Social Media’ guideline for Employees.

5. Assisted the first Northern Plains / North Central Regional Leadership

Conference for SD Conservation District employees in Sioux Falls in August.

6. Entered into a Contribution Agreement with NRCS to provide training and

financial assistance to employees.

7. Working with the Department of Ag on updating and revising the Records

and Retention Destruction Manual.

8. Provide points of contact throughout the state to help employees with

Conservation District business questions and guidance.

D. CONSERVATION DISTRICT IMPROVEMENT

1. Promoted and provided training to assist each Conservation District with

their own website page through the SDACD website.

2. Annually publish Contour Lines. Each district submits written reports of

their year, these reports are compiled in the Contour Lines.

3. Each area creates Employee Surveys and District Services annually which

include wages, supervisor per diem, benefits, services, costs, etc. These

surveys are available to all districts.

4. Updated and revised the Accounting Handbook for S.D. Conservation

Districts.

5. Created Conservation District brochure templates for each district to use

and change for their own district.

6. Created brochure templates for each district to use to promote tree

planting and proper tree planting care.

7. Created brochure templates for each district to use to promote grass

seeding, and proper care after grass is seeded.

8. Created brochure templates for each district to use to promote perennial

plantings.

SDACDE Officers: Tami Moore, President

Peggy Loomis, Vice-President

Yvette Kirkman, Secretary/Treasurer

SDACDE Board of Directors: Northwest Area: Bonnie Schmidt

Hills Area: Zindie Meyers

Prairie Area: Valarie Fedderson

North Missouri Area: Tonja Jessen

South James / Missouri Area: Wendy Mathers

Coteau Area: Jean Fagerland

Vermillion / Big Sioux Area: John Parker