

# The LWG Locally Led Process

*Why it matters, how it flows, and how to make it work for your district*

## **PART 1 — WHY LOCALLY LED CONSERVATION?**

*Conservation works best when the people who live and work on the land help shape the solutions. Your district is uniquely positioned to make that happen because you understand your local land, community, and conservation challenges firsthand.*

## **PART 2 — HOW THE PROCESS FLOWS**

*Locally led conservation starts with local people.*

Conservation districts bring community members, producers, landowners, and partners together to talk about what they're seeing on the land - things like erosion, drought, invasive weeds, water concerns, habitat loss, etc.

Those local concerns move through the LWG process, where priorities are discussed and recommendations are made. Districts then help carry those priorities forward to state and federal partners so programs, funding, and support better match local needs.

As resources and opportunities become available, they flow back into local communities through conservation districts and their partners.

**The district's role is to connect every step.**

Districts help gather input, guide conversations, build partnerships, and keep local priorities moving forward. They're the link between local communities and the broader conservation system.



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## PART 3 — THE LWG PROJECT PROCESS — STEP BY STEP

Here's how your district turns local input into action. Each step has a tool to help.

1	<p><b>BEFORE YOU START</b></p> <p><b>Set Your Goal</b></p> <p>Write a SMART goal your district can measure and achieve.</p> <p><i>A clear goal keeps everything focused. Without it your project can drift in any direction.</i></p>	<p><b>TOOL</b></p> <p><b>Goal-Setting Guide</b></p>
2	<p><b>BUILD YOUR NETWORK</b></p> <p><b>Map Your Partners</b></p> <p>Find who's out there and what each partner brings and gains.</p> <p><i>Conservation doesn't happen alone. The right partners open doors, share resources, and make your project bigger than any one district.</i></p>	<p><b>TOOL</b></p> <p><b>Power Center Inventory + Partner Mapping Worksheet</b></p>
3	<p><b>PLAN YOUR PROJECT</b></p> <p><b>Write Your Proposal</b></p> <p>Document your conservation priority, goal, benchmarks, and budget.</p> <p><i>Your proposal is your roadmap. It's what you bring to partners and what you report against. Writing it forces clarity.</i></p>	<p><b>TOOL</b></p> <p><b>Project Proposal Template</b></p>
4	<p><b>MEET &amp; MOVE</b></p> <p><b>Run Your Meetings</b></p> <p>Keep meetings locally led, structured, and productive.</p> <p><i>Good meetings build momentum. Every meeting should end with clear action items.</i></p>	<p><b>TOOL</b></p> <p><b>Meeting Agenda Template</b></p>
5	<p><b>STAY ACCOUNTABLE</b></p> <p><b>Track Action Items</b></p> <p>Follow through on commitments. Bring this to every meeting.</p> <p><i>This is where most projects stall - between meetings, not during them. Tracking commitments keeps people moving.</i></p>	<p><b>TOOL</b></p> <p><b>Between-Meeting Action Tracker</b></p>
6	<p><b>WATCH IT GROW</b></p> <p><b>Track Your Progress</b></p> <p>Log benchmarks, outcomes, and lessons learned as you go.</p> <p><i>This is how you show that the locally led process works.</i></p>	<p><b>TOOL</b></p> <p><b>Project Progress Tracker</b></p>
7	<p><b>SHARE YOUR STORY</b></p> <p><b>Capture Your Win</b></p> <p>Document what changed on the ground and share it with your community.</p> <p><i>Your success story inspires other districts and makes the case for continued investment in locally led conservation.</i></p>	<p><b>TOOL</b></p> <p><b>Success Story Template</b></p>