

National Conservation District Employees Association (NCDEA) President's Report – July, 2018

Your [National Conservation District Employees Association](http://www.ncdea.org) has been very busy this year continuing to strengthen conservation district employee professional capacity and influence national conservation policy by providing leadership and proficiency on the national level.

We are very pleased that NCDEA has a complete Board of Officers and Regional Representatives for the first time in many years inclusive of:

- President
- Vice President
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Past President
- North Central Region
- Northeast Region **
- Northern Plains Region
- Pacific Region **
- South Central Region *
- Southeast Region **
- Southwest Region
- Executive Director

* Currently serves as At-Large Representative on Officer team.

** Currently has an Alternate Regional Representative identified.

I encourage you to visit the NCDEA Website at www.ncdea.org to become familiar with the current NCDEA Board. Speaking of websites, the NCDEA Communications Committee is hard at work designing a new site with goals of better user interface, more tools for District employees, and resources every District employee will want to see and utilize. This effort was the result of a very busy and productive 2018 NCDEA Mid-Year Meeting in Nashua, New Hampshire - June 19-22, 2018.

NH conservation district employees welcomed the NCDEA Board to their state for four complete days of professional development, partnership activities, and Board work. It all started with the NCDEA Board travelling to Concord, NH to meet with representatives from five NH conservation districts. Each district representative gave the NCDEA Board a brief understanding of their programs, and a lot of dialogue ensued. This dialogue has become customary, and proves invaluable to offer the NCDEA Board perspective of both the differences and similarities of conservation districts throughout the nation. It is very important that the representatives serving on the NCDEA Board do so with the ability to make informed decisions not led solely by their knowledge of their local district and region. The first day continued with a highly informative tour of a seventh generation fruit farm in Hollis, NH owned and operated by Hillsborough Conservation District Supervisor Charles Hardy; of his knowledge of his extensive operation NCDEA Board members remarked following the tour that Mr. Hardy made them feel both dumb and lazy.

A special thank you goes out to Kerry Rickrode, Hillsborough Conservation District, Milford, NH for planning this day; and assisting with the planning for the entire week with NCDEA Northeast Region Alternate Representative Velynda Parker. Thank you Kerry and Velynda!

Wednesday, June 20, 2018 through Friday, June 22, 2018 included three full days of meetings broken down as:

- NCDEA Learning Morning
- NCDEA Committees Afternoon
- NCDEA Administrative Morning
- National Conservation Partnership Afternoon
- NCDEA Roll Up the Sleeves Day

As you can probably tell by these descriptive titles, the NCDEA Board had a very busy meeting attending to the business of NCDEA. Beyond the Mid-Year meeting, the NCDEA Board currently meets monthly via conference call, and face-to-face twice annually. Additionally, they continue to populate National Conservation Partnership Teams, Foundations, and Boards; all of NACD's Foundation Committees, Resource Policy Groups and Task Forces; and all of the Action Teams of the National Conservation Partnership Planning Committee.

We thank all current and former NCDEA Board Members, and other District Employees representing NCDEA on committees for their leadership and commitment to the mission of NCDEA.

Next up is the 2018 NACD Summer Meeting, August 3-8, 2018 in Williamsburg, Virginia where several NCDEA Board members will be present to work hand in hand again with other Conservation District employees and partner leaders.

All information regarding the ongoing work of NCDEA is disseminated through the NCDEA communications network of email, phone, mail, [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) by the NCDEA Regional Representatives and Board Members. This communications network includes many strong state district employee associations that are actively working to advance and support the professionalism of district employees throughout the country, a function of the NCDEA mission.

Please take the time to visit www.ncdea.org for more information and current activities of the NCDEA. For any questions/suggestions/input you may have for your NCDEA organization, please do not hesitate to contact your regional representative, Rich Duesterhaus, NCDEA Executive Director (rich-duesterhaus@nacdn.org) or myself (president@ncdea.org).

Sincerely,

NATIONAL CONSERVATION DISTRICT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Timothy M. Riley".

Timothy M. Riley
NCDEA President
Dover, Delaware