

ND State Soil Conservation Committee

Committee Background Information —The State Soil Conservation Committee was a stand-alone state agency overseeing the 54 State Soil Conservation Districts. The Committee had its own staff, which consists of a director, a business manager, a program coordinator, support staff members and its own budget until 1997. Following the 1997 Legislative session, the Committee's budget was moved to be under the NDSU Extension budget. Significant budget efficiencies were achieved when this transition occurred and the agency was downsized to a program coordinator and support staff member. The duties of the Committee are described in North Dakota Century Code (N.D.C.C.) 4.1-20-05.

Brief Duties Overview — Managing District Assistance Program Funds (SCDAP)
Maintaining Records Regarding SCD Supervisors Elections
SCD Annual Financial Reports
Professional Support and Training for SCD Supervisor

SCDAP and District Activity Reporting Tool—The Soil Conservation District Assistance Program (SCDAP) is being used to provide all 54 of the Soil Conservation Districts a source of state funds to be devoted to the acquisition of technical services, specifically conservation administrative assistance, planning and design, installation and checkout of conservation practices. The SCDAP allows the local Soil Conservation District to determine how it will use local District Staff to address their conservation workload needs.

On July 1, 2019, the District Activity Reporting Tool (DART software) was launched to provide the Districts and Committee an updated on-line Activity Report. The Districts use the DART to record District activities for accountability to receiving SCDAP funding. The DART program has recently been updated so District activities and the top Conservation District Priority areas are identified and how progress is being made in these areas.

SCD Supervisor Training - Mandatory Annual Supervisor Training Bill was passed during the Legislative Assembly. The following options to meet the new Legislation are:

Newly Elected or Newly Appointed SCD Supervisors need to attend a Leadership Academy Level One training during the 1st year in office.

All Other SCD Supervisors (completing one of the three options)

- » View on-line training modules and attend area approved meeting
- » Attend the North Dakota Association of Soil Conservation Annual Convention
- » Attend Leadership Academy Level One or Two Training

Leadership Academy Training - The Soil and Water Conservation Leadership Academy was first offered to SCD staff, Supervisors, and NRCS staff in January 2018. The Leadership Academy was developed by NDSU Extension and the Dept. of Health under an EPA 319 grant. The locally delivered educational program builds the participant's skills and enhances their ability to lead conservation projects now and for future generations. The Leadership Academy Level One has been attended by 184 participants and 44 of the 54 Districts have been represented. A Level Two Leadership Academy has been developed and will be offered in 2020 funded by a NRCS Grant.

Committee Request

The State Soil Conservation Committee would like to thank the SBARE Committee for its support for Soil Conservation District work and the soil and water conservation practices in the State of North Dakota.

*The State Soil Conservation Committee is requesting that the Soil Conservation District Assistance Program to be at least restored to the 2015—2017 Biennium level of **\$1.21 million**.*

*The State Soil Conservation Committee is thankful for the current Biennium level of **\$1.09 million**. However, that level of funding is not keeping pace with the needs of the SCD.*

A recent North Dakota Conservation District Employees Association wages and benefits survey verifies the salary and wages are lagging behind other job sectors.

As a result, Districts staff turnover continues to be a area of concern for all of the Districts.

Soil and Water Conservation
Leadership
ACADEMY

District Activity Reporting Tool Applications

Table #1 - SCDAP 2019 –2021 Allocations to the Districts

District Groupings were compiled by the DART software using the following criteria:

1. Size of District— total acres
2. Number of District employees
3. Mill levy requested (*up to 2.5 mills*)
4. Mill levy values
5. District operating funds on-hand January 1

The State Soil Conservation Committee reviews and approves the allocations.

Table #2 - DART Third Quarter (July 1–September 30)

ALL 54 Districts compiled top activities in selected categories.

The DART software has been revised December 1, 2019. Requesting Districts to rank the top 3–5 Conservation Priority Areas (CPA).The CPA will be linked to the biennium reporting activities that are specific to that priority area.

For Example: #1 - CPA for 33 SCD Districts (*Wind erosion following soybeans*)

Biennium Activities: _____ Cover crops seeded
 _____ Field windbreaks

#2 - CPA for 23 SCD Districts (*Water quality for livestock*)

Biennium Activities : _____ Pipeline Planning
 _____ Pipeline Checkout

DART THIRD QUARTER (Top Areas)		
Tree / Forestry		
Tree Planning - Windbreak Renovation	345	Hours
Tree Planning - Farmstead Planting	1730	Hours
Site Preparation	117	Hours
Tree Ordering/Preparation	526	Hours
Tree Planting - Windbreak Renovation	19508	Feet
Tree Planting - Farmstead Planting	147170	Feet
Tree Planting - Wildlife Planting	86920	Feet
Tree Planting - Field Windbreak	13240	Feet
Weed Barrier Installation	214913	Feet
Cover Crops		
Seeding	1257	Acres
Check-Out	133	Hours
Livestock / Grazing		
Grazing Plan Development	103	Hours
Range Inventory	111	Hours
NUTBAL Sampling	91	Hours
Grass / Prairie Mgmt		
Seed Mix Design	109	Hours
Seeding	564	Acres
Pasture Seeding - Hayland	209	Acres
Soils		
Soil Testing	131	Hours
Mapping	144	Hours
Water Quality (Not 319 projects)		
Practice Planning - Pipeline	124195	Feet
Urban Conservation		
Practice Planning	65	Hours
Outreach	114	Hours
Workshops	96	Hours
Education / Outreach		
School Education (K-12)	6317	Attendees
Adult Education	707	Attendees
Workshops	953	Attendees
Field Days	843	Attendees
Website	304	Hours

Table #2

SCDAP 2019-2021 BIENNIEUM	
DISTRICT	ALLOTTED
GOLDEN VALLEY	\$32,500
SIOUX (CEDAR SOIL)	\$32,500
TOWNER	\$32,500
EDDY	\$29,500
GRANT	\$29,500
LOGAN	\$29,500
OLIVER	\$29,500
ROLETTE	\$29,500
WALSH (THREE RIVERS)	\$29,500
EMMONS	\$29,000
SHERIDAN	\$29,000
BENSON (NORTH CENTRAL)	\$25,500
PEMBINA	\$25,500
SARGENT (WILD RICE)	\$25,500
BURKE	\$25,000
CAVALIER	\$25,000
RENVILLE	\$25,000
KIDDER	\$24,250
ADAMS	\$22,000
BOWMAN-SLOPE	\$22,000
WELLS	\$22,000
BOTTINEAU (TURTLE MOUNTAIN)	\$21,500
LAMOURE	\$21,500
MCLEAN (SOUTH)	\$21,500
RAMSEY	\$21,500
BOTTINEAU (MOUSE RIVER)	\$21,000
PIERCE	\$21,000
BARNES	\$18,000
DICKEY (JAMES RIVER)	\$18,000
DIVIDE	\$18,000
FOSTER	\$18,000
GRIGGS	\$18,000
MCHENRY (SOUTH)	\$18,000
MCINTOSH	\$18,000
NELSON	\$18,000
RANSOM	\$18,000
SLOPE-HETTINGER	\$18,000
STEELE COUNTY	\$18,000
RICHLAND	\$17,000
DUNN	\$16,770
MCHENRY (NORTH)	\$16,000
MCLEAN (WEST)	\$16,000
MERCER	\$16,000
TRAIL	\$16,000
MORTON	\$14,500
MOUNTRAIL	\$14,000
STUTSMAN	\$12,000
MCKENZIE	\$10,500
STARK-BILLINGS	\$10,500
BURLEIGH	\$8,000
GRAND FORKS	\$8,000
WARD	\$8,000
WILLIAMS	\$8,000
CASS (\$8000 - DECLINED-6-18-19)	\$0
TOTAL	\$1,091,520

Table #1

