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Full Speed Ahead

Spring is in full bloom, farming is in full swing, and every day brings more chores and more opportunities.

That's the theme of this week's IASCD e-news!

Read on, share, and please send us your feedback: board@iascd.org.

From the Director's Perspective

Across Idaho, conservation districts are doing meaningful work that supports agriculture, protects natural resources, and strengthens our communities. I have a deep respect for that work and the committed individuals who serve in these roles.

During my first sixty days, my focus will be on listening, learning, and building strong connections. I plan to reach out to each district and begin getting to know you. I'd like to better understand the unique priorities and challenges facing districts across the state and identify ways IASCD can better support your efforts.

I will be working to strengthen communication, ensure districts have access to useful resources, and explore opportunities to bring additional value through partnerships and funding.



IASCD Executive Director Mary Huff

I welcome the opportunity to connect with you and would be glad to join upcoming district meetings via Zoom if that would be helpful.

My goal is simple: to ensure IASCD is a responsive, supportive partner that helps districts succeed in their work on the ground.

I look forward to working with each of you.

ISWCC Commission Nominations

Patxi Larrocea-Phillips

Governor Little's office recently reached out to IASCD to remind us that nominations are being accepted for appointment to the Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission.

Commissioner Mitch Silver's term expired in 2025, so Division II should act quickly to submit three names to the governor's office.

Terms ending July 1, 2026 are Joan Cloonan, Div. III; Richard Savage, Div. VI; and Blake Hollingsworth, at-large.

Please contact your commissioner to see if they want to serve another 5-year term. Divisions should then send a letter to the governor listing names of three nominees from their Division.

Ever heard of Idaho Gives?

It's a program of the Idaho Community Foundation designed to raise money and awareness for Idaho nonprofits. Idaho Gives makes it easy for folks to donate to favorite causes through a central hub.

As a 501(c)3 organization, IASCD is eligible to participate, and we have registered to take part in Idaho Gives. We hope this effort will help us raise discretionary funds that IASCD can use to assist districts.

This year's main Idaho Gives event takes place May 4-7. But Early Giving begins next Tuesday, April 14th, for donors who just can't wait. And donations will be accepted through the Idaho Gives portal until May 10th.

There are incentives for getting donations from every county in the state, so spread the word! Let's see if we can hit that mark! There are also opportunities to earn matching funds from the Idaho Community Foundation.

We'll have more details for you soon. In the meantime, learn more about Idaho Gives: <https://www.idahogives.org/info/faq>.

Stewardship isn't optional.



It's Idaho.

Tools & Training

What happens when you invite someone?

Many conservation districts face a common challenge: how to attract and retain effective supervisors.

At their March 10th spring meeting in Pocatello, three dozen supervisors and district employees in Division V brainstormed possible solutions. They came up with some steps that could form the foundation of your district's plan for supervisor recruitment and retention.

Be active. If your district is busy doing projects, the word will get out. People will hear about you and ask questions. Don't be shy! Toot your own horn on your website, in local media and on social media. Be visible, not invisible.

Invite them in. When someone shows interest in the district, invite them to attend a board meeting to learn more. Invite them to join as non-voting associate board members so they can begin to learn the ropes. It takes awhile to understand the what, why and how of conservation districts. Here's your chance to mentor future supervisors.

Be local. Allow your board to reflect the demographics and realities of your district. Not all Idaho districts are made up of large landowners or traditional ag operations. If your district is more forested or urban/suburban and includes many small-acreage landowners, your board and your projects ought to reflect that. That's a cornerstone of being locally led and responding to local needs.



What's Coming Up?

Apr. 15: 10:00-11:00 a.m. MDT via Zoom: Idaho District Employees Association (IDEA) Quarterly Training—"Your Role in Idaho's Open Meeting Law" with guest presenter Carl Ericson, ICRMP Risk Management Legal Counsel. Open to all IDEA members and district supervisors. If you haven't received the Zoom invitation, contact IDEA President Sarah Garcia at bonnerswcd@gmail.com

June 22: IASCD Board Meeting, Home2Suites in Boise & on Zoom

Nov. 17-19: IASCD Annual Conference, University Inn, Moscow, hosted by Division II



Don't limit yourself to being visible only through district projects. When you're at the fair, school sporting events or neighborhood gatherings, talk with folks about what your district does and why you serve.

"We need to respect the positions we hold and the responsibility we have," said Devin Fielding, Division V Director of IASCD. "We are elected officials operating with public funds for the common good. When we communicate our passion for the work we do, in can be infectious."

So don't be shy. Be active. Be visible. Extend the invitation. Reflect your district. Mentor. Repeat and thrive!

Reach out to IASCD

Contact your IASCD director at board@iascd.org.
 Jeff Connolly, Div. I
 Clint Zenner, Div. II
 Wendy Green, Div. III
 Richard Kunau, Div. IV
 Devin Fielding, Div. V
 Tori O'Neal, Div. VI
 Mary Huff, Exec. Dir.