

,Re-Organizational Subcommittee Meeting
USDA NRCS
230 N. 1st Avenue
May 25, 2006

Present: Steve Barker, Tim Morrison, Sal Palazzolo, Karol Brill, Marcia Colquitt

Steve opened the meeting and explained the purpose of the meeting and discussion points in preparation for the State Technical Committee meeting on June 14th. Steve explained that at the June 14th meeting, the proposed new structure of the State Technical Committee and Local work Groups will be discussed. Items of discussion were as follows:

- Local work groups are lead by members of the Conservation Districts whose role is to assemble the work group, set the agenda, develop conservation needs and conduct the group meetings. The District can delegate any or all of the responsibilities if necessary. There are 42 Districts in Arizona.
- How can the exchange of information, activities and programs of other Districts and state agencies optimally channel back to local work groups to unify strategies and achieve conservation goals? With 84 watershed areas, 42 Districts, 24 field offices, and 8 Areas, the coordination of priorities is a challenge. A watershed-based approach to resource management planning is being explored. Subsets of watershed areas would align with conservation district boundaries and enable evaluation of common resource priorities with consideration of land uses.
- Steve discussed the design and development idea of a uniform package to assist local workgroups in submitting natural resource priorities to the State Conservationist/State Technical Committee. Having a uniform response procedure in place is part of the equation in having each District's priorities addressed equitably. Steve will be working on this.
- With regard to the priorities submitted by the Districts for review, the need to propose a schedule for program subcommittees (WHIP, CSP, EQIP etc.), to do the ranking and give feedback to the Districts was discussed.
- At the June 14th meeting, Steve and Tim will present the NRCS partnering approaches that will broaden and build cooperative efforts with the Districts. Sal will report on the concept of subcommittees for the various programs as listed above, while Marcia will expound on the vision for collaboration with the Districts and state agency input.

May 26, 2006