

WYOMING CONSERVATION DISTRICT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION



Annual Report

FY 2014-2015

The Purpose of the WCDEA is:

- To provide training and networking to advance the professionalism and skills of the Conservation District Employees
- To provide input and assistance to WACD in carrying out the duties of the Districts.

Executive Committee

President: Anita Bartlett, Powder River CD

Vice President: Crystal Kellebrew, Campbell County CD

Treasurer: Lisa Ogden, Natrona County CD

Secretary: Michelle Huntington, Converse County CD

Area I Representatives: Sarah Anderson, Crook County NRD; Jennifer Hinkhouse, Weston County NRD

Area II Representatives: Heidi Sturman, Niobrara CD; Tony Hoch, Laramie Rivers CD

Area III Representatives: Carla Thomas, Hot Springs CD; Victoria Dietz, Washakie County CD

Area IV Representatives: Diana Olson, Popo Agie CD; Lisa Ogden, Natrona County CD

Area V Representatives: Dawn Arnell, Little Snake River CD; Karen Pecheny, Sweetwater County CD

WACD Liaison: Jeri Trebelcock, Popo Agie CD

Membership

There are 81 District Employees in Wyoming. Dues are \$25 per member and some member's dues are paid by their District, where as others are paid for out of the employees pocket. 90% of employees paid their dues.

2014 Outstanding Area Employees

Outstanding Area I Employee: Amy Doke, Program Specialist; Sheridan County CD– As the program specialist, Amy is the all-around “go to girl” for everything that needs to be done. Even when on maternity leave, she continued to coordinate and conduct special outreach activities for the District (such as Sagebrush Outdoor Lab, butter activities for AG week, and others). She oversaw the completion of a demonstration project to integrate outreach, water quality, and our need to engage the urban community through the installation of a rain garden, permeable walkway, and rain barrels. This year, she overhauled the tree program, which included coordination with two separate nurseries. In her spare time, she assisted WCDEA with initial development of a website. Amy is an invaluable asset and always performs with a professional attitude.

Outstanding Area II Employee: Kathy Cooney, Financial Coordinator-Laramie County CD–Kathy has worked for the Laramie County Conservation District as the Financial Coordinator since January 2007. Her responsibilities include tracking, budget expenditures, balancing bank accounts, paying bills, billing customers, answering the phone, assisting walk-in customers, tracking inventory, taking minutes at board meetings and just about anything else that needs done. Kathy consistently helps out before and during WACD convention with assembly of convention registration packets and clerking for the WACD auction.

Outstanding Area III Employee: Janet Hallsted, District Coordinator; South Big Horn CD–Janet is always willing to assist anyone who asks for help, giving guidance and advice without judgment. With the varied “tasks” involved with being a District Coordinator most of the day and weeks involves times going above and beyond the call of duty just as a normal day.

Outstanding Area IV Employee: Jean Runner, Office Manager/Education Coordinator; S-E-R CD–Jean goes above and beyond on a daily basis. Her duties as the Office Manager include: District budget, monthly financial reports, funding requirements, payment of bills, generating vouchers, deposits/payments, Supervisor election filings, WID Board filings, among numerous other tasks that keep the office running smoothly. She is responsible for the Upper North Platte Valley Water Users Association, Upper North Platte Valley Water Conservation Association, Hugus Water Irrigation District, Highline Irrigation District's minutes, finances, elections, advertisements and guest speakers.

Outstanding Area V Employee: Kathy Raper, Surface Water Program Manager; Sublette County CD– Kathy takes special care to stay informed of local issues involving water quality and any environmental issues that may have an effect on conservation in Sublette County. She has made an extra effort to become acquainted with the landowners where she collects water samples, thus resulting in friendships and excellent landowner relationships for the District. Many times Kathy will take her own personal time to attend informational meetings in order to stay informed of potential problems that may affect landowners in and around Sublette County.



2014 WACD Employee of the Year

Michelle Huntington began working for the Converse County CD in 2007 and is currently the District Manager. She also serves as the Secretary for the Wyoming Conservation District Employees Association. In her role with the Employees' Association, she has helped coordinate the Annual Winter training and other meetings throughout the year.

Michelle is always willing to lend a helping hand with any project. She has dedicated countless hours to the Pathway to Water Quality Project and Living Legacy Project on the Wyoming State Fairgrounds. Michelle also spearheads the Conservation District booth during the Wyoming State Fair.

The Wyoming Natural Resource Foundation's Chuck and Chip golf tournament wouldn't be complete without Michelle sitting on the 5th hole as the "Hole in One" witness. She is also instrumental in the WNRF's annual fundraiser, selling many tickets each year during the fair. In addition, Michelle has provided assistance for the past several years with the Foundation's live auction.



Michelle is an enthusiastic participant in her local District programs such as their annual well water testing day, Household Hazardous Waste and Pesticide Collection Day, world water monitoring day, and seedling tree program to name just a few.

In everything she does, Michelle gives 100% and she is a very valuable asset to the Conservation District family.

2014 Longevity Awards

In 2014, 15 District Employees received Longevity Awards for their years of dedicated service to their Districts. They include:

25 Years of Service

Janet Hallsted South Big Horn CD

20 Years of Service

Glen Leavengood S-E-R CD

15 Years of Service

Kelly Brown WACD

Emily Hagedorn-Wegher Teton CD

Kathy Raper Sublette County CD

Heidi Sturman Niobrara CD

10 Years of Service

Dawn Arnell Little Snake River CD

Sno Ann Engler Sublette County CD

Dennis Hemmer Laramie County CD

Debbie Hepp Campbell County CD

Trish Penny Laramie River CD

5 Years of Service

Mark Blakely Little Snake River CD

Kelly Booth Lake DeSmet CD

Loren Racich Sublette County CD

Cathy Rosenthal WACD

"THERE IS NO
CHALLENGE TOO
GREAT FOR THOSE
WHO HAVE THE
WILL AND HEART TO
MAKE IT HAPPEN."

Congratulations and Thank You for all that you do.



Accomplishments

- The 69th NACD Annual Meeting in New Orleans, LA was attended by
- Winter Training was held in Casper with 37 employees in attendance. This training included sessions on:
 - How to Fill out Department of Audit and Department of Workforce Services Forms
 - Emergency Watershed Protection Program
 - DEQ Spill Prevention Plans
 - Access 101
 - Access 102
 - National Environmental Protection Act
 - Ecological Site Descriptions
 - Soil Health
 - Trees
 - Pollinators
 - Cheatgrass Management
 - Land & Resource Use Plan and Policy
 - Health Insurance Changes
 - Legislative Issues
- Anita Bartlett serves on the Annual Plan & Report Committee for the WACD & WDA
- Anita Bartlett served on the WACD Awards selection committee.
- 90% of dues were paid by the 81 District Employees across the state.
- During the WACD Convention, WCDEA members attended the concurrent educational sessions covering Waters of the U.S., Black Footed Ferret Status, Groundwater Monitoring and Oil & Gas Development, Social Media, 2014 Farm Bill, and how the Cheyenne Botanic Gardens built local support to pass a 6th penny sales tax.
- A Silent Auction held at the 2014 WACD Convention saw \$1,718.00. The funds are used to off set the cost of educational trainings, the WCDEA scholarship program and purchasing longevity awards for employees.
- The WCDEA website was completed and can be found at www.wcdea.com
- The WCDEA provided a yearly newsletter to all employees and it was handed out to District Supervisors at the WACD Business Meeting during convention.



Committees:

Scholarship Committee

Jennifer Hinkhouse
 Tony Hoch
 Karen Pecheny
 Tori Dietz
 Joan McGraw

Website

Joan McGraw
 Diana Olson
 Anita Bartlett
 Lisa Ogden
 Crystal Kellebrew
 Michelle Huntington

Training Committee

Diana Olson
 Sarah Anderson
 Steffen Cornell
 Heidi Sturman
 Dawn Arnell