Soil and Water Conservation Districts

Conservation districts primarily provide the community with information on best management conservation practices and connect them with conservation resources. Nearly every district has an agricultural cost share program as well as an agricultural water resources assistance program

Receiving Funding

The cost share program allows agricultural producers to apply for the technical and financial support from the district to support them in using environmentally sound agricultural practices (building new lakes rivers and other bodies of clean water.)

Joining the Board

Districts are comprised of five Supervisors. Additionally, there is no specified requirement of prior experience! But, there is a suggestion that supervisors have working knowledge of conservation techniques.

Supervisor's Thoughts

Eddie Wood (Cherokee County) and Gary Newman (Mecklenburg County) have served as supervisors. Newman's career as a civil engineer specializing in erosion and wetland protection drove him to serve. Wood is a farmer and admires his districts' ability to "get things done" and loves when he sees the government funding put back into the community.

Collaboration & Community

Often, conservation district members serve as the primary source of contact for farmers within their county regarding conservation matters. Supervisors do engagement with the broader community to let them know about the resources the district provides.

Relevance to the Local Food System

District Supervisors and staff typically have relationships with many farmers in their districts, and are a direct connection to commercial agricultural enterprises who are engaging in conservation practices.

Terms of Service

Each term lasts for four years and relection is possible! Also each supervisor should expect to spend at least 10-15 hours per month working.

Eddie Wood:

""Anyone can learn while in the position and make an impact if they care about the issues."