

EX-OFFICIO MEMBER'S ORGANIZATIONAL UPDATE

March 6-8, 2023 Virtual Meeting

MEMBER'S NAME

Bill Simshauser

REPRESENTATIVE ORGANIZATION

National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD)

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ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTION

NACD represents America's 3,000 conservation districts, their respective state and territory associations, and the 17,000 men and women who serve on their governing boards. Conservation districts are local units of government established under state law to help administer natural resource management programs and are the essential local component of our country's conservation delivery system.

PRIORITIES / ACTIVITIES FOR FY2023

I serve as the Chair of NACD's Invasive Species Resource Policy Group (RPG), which includes NACD leaders representing conservation districts across the country, and staff from NRCS and APHIS. The RPG convenes monthly to examine current and future invasive species concerns, and discuss ways to address these issues at the local and federal level. Over the past year, the RPG has examined invasive species legislation, identified and tracked invasive species of concern, and provided updates and educational materials for conservation districts and other local resource management partners. This month, NACD's Invasive Species RPG developed a work plan and approved three goals to guide the group's actions over the next year.

Goal 1: Increase public awareness of the need for invasive species control and management:

NACD's Invasive Species RPG is working with NACD's Communications Team to provide additional materials for conservation districts and other local partners to increase their awareness and understanding of invasive species issues, best management practices, and available resources. The RPG will use NACD's daily, weekly, and monthly publications to share information and host educational briefings. At NACD's Annual Meeting in February, experts and stakeholders from multiple states participated in a panel discussion focused on the local implementation of feral swine control programs. Throughout this year, NACD will continue to explore opportunities to increase partner and public awareness of invasive species concerns and the resources available to help address these issues.

Goal 2: Form partnerships with organizations that have interests in invasive species management:

NACD's Invasive Species RPG is also working to strengthen relationships with government partners and stakeholder to strengthen responses to invasive species issues. The RPG is currently collaborating with several agencies and organizations, including the USFWS, Texas A&M Forest Service, and the Delaware Forest Service. NACD hopes to bolster these and other partnerships to enhance policy solutions and the administration of resources to mitigate the impacts of invasive species.

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PRIORITIES / ACTIVITIES FOR FY2023 *(continued)*

Goal 3: Move from information to action on invasive species concerns.

NACD members have consistently shared information, policy suggestions, and suggested actions at NACD's monthly Invasive Species RPG meetings. Members have also shared information about regional invasive species of concern, which are then added to the RPG's regional priority list. This list helps the RPG track relevant invasive species-focused legislation, federal agency actions, and the availability of resources. NACD hopes to build on this effort to allow local conservation delivery system partners to enhance invasive species policy and program administration.