

Utah Conservation Districts
Zone Meetings – 2024

Power Up Your Conservation District

Objective

- Develop a district project or program proposal using the working knowledge of the Conservation District Supervisor powers and authorities and role in local leadership, local alliance building, local natural resource priorities, local education, local program evaluation.
- 38 district project or program proposals to...

Agenda

- Zone Meetings & Presentations
- District Project or Program Objective & Agenda
- Function, Powers, Authorities of Conservation Districts & Supervisors
- Successful Use of District Powers & Authorities
- Project / Program Idea Development
- Benchmarks & Timeline
- Alliances Needed for Project/Program
- Project/Program Proposals Shared
- Closing Comments & Adjourn

Function

- To take available technical, financial, educational resources, whatever their source, and focus or coordinate them, so they meet the needs of the local land user, for conservation of soil, water and related resources.

Using Your District Powers & Authorities

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Utah Conservation District Law

- Chapter 3 - Conservation District Act
- Part 1 General Provisions
- A conservation district created under this chapter:
 - is a body corporate and politic;
 - is a political subdivision of the state; and
 - may sue and be sued.

Authorities - 17D-3-103 Conservation District Status, Authority and Duties

- Survey investigate & research
- Devise & implement measure
- Construct, improve, & maintain a structure
- Acquire property - real or personal
- Enter into a contract
- Receive money

Authorities

- Receive money
- Recommendations governing land use
- Plan watershed & flood control projects
- Make recommendations
- Employ staff personnel
- Perform any other act

Authorities

- Subject to consent of
 - Land occupier or owner
 - Trust lands - Director
- Recommendation under subsection uniform - classification
- Classify land



Annually Submit to Commission

- Meeting Minutes
- Annual Work Plan
- Accounting of Financial Affairs

17A 3 805 District a political subdivision

Functions, powers, and duties.

- Employ staff personnel
- Conduct surveys, investigations & research
- Devise & implement measures
- Construct, improve, operate, & maintain structures
- Enter into contracts or agreements
- Receive funds from...
- Annually submit to the commission...
- Things necessary or convenient for efficient & effective administration

17A 3 806 Recommendations regarding land use within district authorized

In addition to the functions, powers, and duties imposed upon each district by Section 17A 3 805, each district is authorized to make recommendations governing land use within the district. Such recommendations may include, but are not limited to:

- (1) provisions requiring the observance of particular methods of cultivation;
- (2) provisions requiring specific crop programs and tillage practices;
- (3) provisions prohibiting the tillage and cultivation of highly erosive areas where erosion may not be adequately controlled if cultivated; and
- (4) provisions requiring the construction of terraces, terrace outlets, check dams, dikes, ponds, and other structures.

Local Governance

- Conservation Districts are local governments authorized by state law
- Conservation Districts receive programs and funding from the Legislature
- State Law authorizes the mission and management of a conservation district
- Local governance provided by Board Members

Successful Use of District Powers and Authorities

- Individuals write their response to “What successful use of district powers and authorities have you seen or heard of?” and “What ideas do you have for using the powers and authorities
- Examples shared among large group.

Project / Program Idea Development

- District groups discuss and identify criteria for selecting a high priority project / program for their district – listing in priority order.
- Individuals identify a high priority project/program based on criteria and the question “If we had time, money, and energy for one new project/program”.
- Group discussion and decision on a priority project/program.



Project / Program Idea Development

- Develop a short description of the project/program.
- Group discussion of the one measurement of success for the project/program.
- Develop a measurable goal for the project/program using the measurement of success.

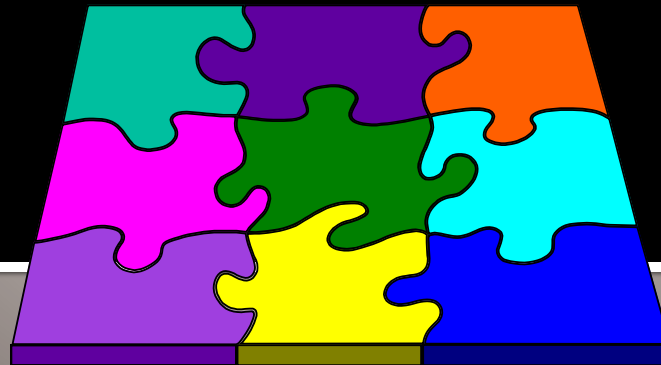
Benchmarks & Timeline

- District group discussion of the benchmarks (large pieces of business completed) and timeline for each (5 or less).

Alliances Needed for Project/Program

- Short presentation on alliance building.
- District group discussion and identification of alliances needed for the project/program, what the each alliance would bring (people, information, funding, or other), and how each alliance would benefit.

Building Successful Alliances & Relationships



Ten Commandments of Human Relations

- Speak to people
- Smile at people
- Call people by name
- Be friendly and helpful
- Be Cordial
- Be genuinely interested in people



Ten Commandments of Human Relations

- Be generous with praise, cautious with criticism
- Be considerate with the feelings of others
- Be thoughtful of the opinions of others
- Be alert to give service



Relationships

“R before I and T”

(Relationships before Issues and Tasks“)



Relationships

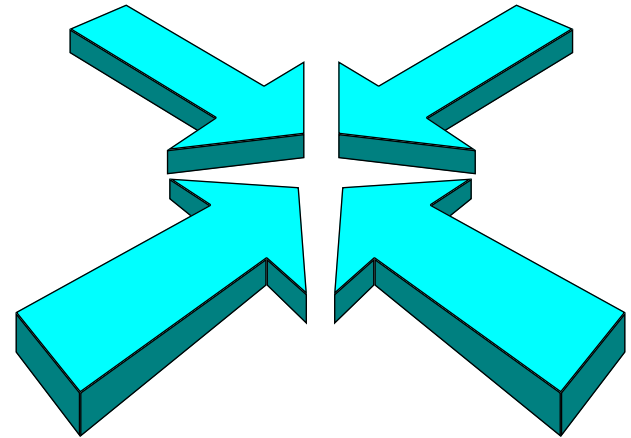
“Emotional/Relationship Bank Account”

- partnerships, alliances, relationships as bank accounts
- rules and regulations
- deposits & withdrawals
- important to never overdraw your account!!!!



Why Build an Alliance

- to reach a specific goal
- to combine or pool resources
- to create credibility of program or project



7 Elements of Effective Alliances

- Goals
 - Common goals for the alliance.
- Outcomes/payoffs
 - What benefits can be achieved by working together
- Leadership
 - Leadership must be able to move the group toward agreed upon goals in a timely manner.

from OSU Extension Service



7 Elements of Effective Alliances

- Commitment
 - Each person must be committed to accomplishing goals.
- Communication
 - Establish an effective communication system between alliance partners.
- Turf
 - Sensitive to turf concerns. Openness about partners concerns/issues.

from OSU Extension Service



7 Elements of Effective Alliances

- Diversity/Gender/Ethnic Representation
 - Need to involve people from diverse backgrounds

from OSU Extension Service



Building Successful Alliances

- How do we interest or involve others in our program or project?
 - WIFM
 - common cause
 - shared vision
- How do we maintain diverse alliances?
 - avoid working with the same old groups
 - reach out to new groups



Building Successful Alliances

Trust

+

Cooperation

+

Communication

+

Knowing your partners

Successful Alliance



Project/Program Proposals Shared

- District groups share their proposed project/program proposal.



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