

Commitments

Directors are expected to attend monthly board meetings and the District's Annual Meeting. The length of each board meeting depends on the volume of business to be conducted. Board meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month in Elgin beginning at 7:00 pm.

In addition to regular meetings Directors should make an effort to:

- § Attend the quarterly multi-district land use council meetings.
- § Attend a two-day training in Springfield in March following your initial election.
- § Attend the three-day Annual Meeting and Land and Water Resource Conference in late July or early August in Springfield.
- § Attend special meetings that arise during the year.
- § Participate on committees as needed.

Qualifications of District Directors

You must be an owner or occupier of land within the district boundaries and be of legal voting age. Additionally, directors should be interested in carrying out the business of the district and committing time necessary to be an effective member of the board. All directors are locally elected governmental officials and are subject to the same standards of conduct and ethics as any other elected official.

Associate Directors, as appointed by the Board, provide additional support, advice and perspective. However, they are not afforded the same legal protection as directors and cannot vote on official business under any circumstances.

Length of Term

Directors are elected to serve a 2 year term. Terms of office begin on the first Monday of March following that year's February election.

District Funding

The North Cook Co. SWCD is a **non-taxing local government** formed in the public's interest.

State Contributions: The District's budget is partially funded through an annually approved grant from the Illinois Department of Agriculture. This provides approximately 60-70% of the annual operating budget of the District.

Federal Contributions: The District receives valuable technical support and information sharing fueled by our partnership with USDA-Natural Resource Conservation Service. The close working relationship of NRCS, SWCD staff, our community, and our elected board make Soil & Water Districts distinctively valuable and effective organizations. As an added benefit, by co-locating with our federal partner, both parties lessen their financial burdens by sharing some general office expenses.

Local Contributions: The District does not currently receive funding from the county, local municipalities or any other local organizations.

SWCD Program Contributions: The remainder of the District's budget is made up in fees charged for various programs and services administered by the District; such as those listed throughout this publication and online.



Interested Board Candidates

Please contact the District office to learn more about the District, director expectations, directors' development opportunities, to meet your board and / or to receive a "Directors Overview" form.

Phone: 847-468-0071



The Board of Directors

Jim Singer; Board Chairman
Bob Murzyn; Vice-Chairman
Mark Toberman; Treasurer
Deb Perryman; Secretary
Leo Kinsch; Director

www.northcookswcd.org

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North Cook County

Soil & Water

Conservation District

Assisting Local Landowners In Natural
Resource Conservation Since 1950

Responsibilities of a
Soil & Water Conservation
District Director

Why were Soil & Water Conservation Districts created?

In 1937, the Illinois State Legislature authorized the creation of Soil and Water Conservation Districts ('SWCDs'). The SWCD Act (70 ILCS 405/3.01) defines SWCDs and offers this further explanation stating, "The General Assembly finds that erosion continues to be a serious problem throughout the State, and that rapid shifts in land use from agricultural to nonagricultural uses... and other land disturbing activities have accelerated the process of soil erosion and sediment deposition resulting in pollution of the waters of the State... It is, therefore, declared to be the policy of this State to strengthen and extend the present erosion and sediment control activities and programs for both rural and urban lands, and to establish and implement, through the Department and soil and water conservation districts in cooperation with units of local government... and other public agencies and private entities, a statewide comprehensive and coordinated erosion and sediment control program to conserve and protect land, water, air and other resources."

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the North Cook County Soil & Water Conservation District is to provide information, education, and guidance in the conservation and wise use of natural resources on lands within the District.

What are the responsibilities of the District Board of Directors?

Each SWCD is a governmental body, but is not a branch of the federal, state or county government. SWCDs are local units of government. Each is governed by a five member board of directors. Directors are elected by owners and / or occupiers of land within each district. Boards meet regularly to formulate and administer programs of work that are tailored specifically to the conservation and protection of soil, water and related natural resources within their district. Some common activities of the board include the following;

- ✔ Prepare an Annual and Long-range Plan of Work.
- ✔ Establish SWCD policies and procedure.
- ✔ Carry out activities promoting conservation of the soil, water & related natural resources.
- ✔ Provide opinions & valuable resource information to units of government & land developers to support well-informed development choices & to promote natural resource preservation as zoning ordinances are developed or as zoning changes are requested (NRI program).

- ✔ Secure cooperation of other agencies, groups and individuals to further the goals and objectives of the SWCD.
 - ✔ Develop and carry out strategies for the improvement of water quality.
 - ✔ Carry out informational and educational programs in schools and the adult community.
 - ✔ Work with SWCD staff in establishing priorities on the type of services needed & where that assistance should be provided.
- PLEASE NOTE: This is only a partial summary of Directors' duties. District Directors perform on a voluntary basis. This is not a salary position.

