

Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts

Representing Idaho's conservation districts as the primary entities to coordinate voluntary, locally-led efforts to sustain & enhance Idaho's natural resources.

A Monthly eNewsletter

Issue No. 9 - Nov/Dec 2012

President's Conference Recap

IASCD President Kit Tillotson shares conference highlights and his favorite conference break-out session on **Page 1**.

Keynote Speaker

Dr. David Adler provided an in-depth look at our nation's political landscape. **Page 2**



Soil To Spoon Speech Contest

We were treated to six excellent speakers at our education luncheon this year. It took the judges nearly 30 minutes to choose a winner! **Page 2**

Conservation Without Borders



This year's highlight was a discussion with private conservation groups. **Page 2**

Business Meeting

An emergency resolution was brought to the floor by the Blaine Soil Conservation District. IASCD will be working with the SWC to remedy an issue with district match allocations. **Page 2**

Public Records

What is an SCD's responsibility if a citizen asks to see your public records? **Page 3**



What A Wonderful 70th Annual Conference!

From the moment the Western Buffet ended, the buzz among the attendees at IASCD's 70th Annual Business Conference was nothing but excitement.

During the opening night's festivities, we were treated to a fantastic barbershop quartette. They even were kind enough to sing songs to Kathy Weaver and Joyce Smith! I am still wondering why Robbie Taylor was left out of this serenade.

Following a welcome address from Idaho Falls Mayor Jared Fuhrman, our keynote speaker was Dr. David Adler, the Director of the Andrus Center for Public Policy. Normally, when someone wants to talk politics in front of a large group of people, some will walk away offended. But Dr. Adler was able to give us a very balanced and informative look at our nation following Election Day.

He also said something that I wrote down, and it has stuck with me since the end of his speech: **With the shift of population from rural to urban areas, rural residents need to be willing to participate at the same level and energy as the urban legislators.**



Member districts approve last year's minutes with only a few few changes.

To me, this meant we have to work twice as hard to share our needs and concerns with those who are serving in our state capital. This year, it will be critical to reach out to the new legislators.

My other favorite session was the Conservation Without Borders panel. The Division VI planning committee really knocked the ball out of the park with this session!

Our district supervisors and our new friends who are involved in private conservation groups need to engage in greater dialogue. While it may be difficult at the start, we can both learn from one another and gain valuable input on the preservation of natural resources.

Justin Hayes, our panelist from the Idaho Conservation League said it best, "A collaborative process takes a long time to get going and bear fruit."

I truly do want to thank all those involved in planning this wonderful conference. Our guests, sessions, work shops, meals, and rooms were outstanding, and Division VI made us feel right at home.

See you in Boise next year!

Sincerely,

Kit Tillotson, IASCD President



70th Annual Business Conference

70 Years: Saving Soil One Inch At A Time

Keynote: Dr. David Adler



Dr. David Adler, the Director of the Andrus Center for Public Policy, opened up our conference with a fantastic overview of the political scene following the 2012 election.

"The grown-ups in the room will have to come together," said Adler regarding the looming 'fiscal cliff'.

We had a great question-and-answer period, and Dr. Adler spoke a bit about the need for dissenting speech.

"It is critical to our system of government. Criticisms help re-evaluate local, state or national laws or policies," concluded Dr. Adler.

Education Luncheon



This year's speech contest theme was "Soil To Spoon", and each contestant painted vivid photos of farmers and ranchers working the soil to produce our nation's fruit and fiber. Our winner was Shania Jensen.

We also awarded Stephanie Strand with the Elementary Teacher of the Year. Stephanie is a 5th grade teacher at Challis Elementary School. During the opening dinner, Jon Hogge was awarded the Secondary Teacher of the Year. Mr. Hogge taught at Rigby High until last year. It was quite a surprise for both of our winners!

Conservation Panel



Early in the conference planning, Division VI came up with the idea of inviting some private conservation groups to come and speak about the commonalities we have in preserving Idaho's natural resources.

The panel included staff from the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Trout Unlimited, Idaho Conservation League, Pheasants Forever, Idaho Fish and Game, and the Teton Regional Land Trust.

We actually went over the schedule time for this panel, as the discussion was incredibly positive.

Business Meeting Recap



Following the roll call and approval of last year's minutes, the committee chairmen discussed their presentations this year. We then had a long budget discussion, and member districts approved a balanced Fiscal Year 2014 budget.

Blane SCD brought forth an emergency resolution regarding district match allocations to the floor. It directed IASCD to work with the SWC and legislature to remedy Rule 60.05.04 for funds received after June 30th.

IASCD will keep you posted on this rule fix!

Awards Banquet



This year's award's banquet honored our past and our future. A number of VIP's attended including Amos & Ruth Garrison, Wayne Faude, Howard Fredrickson, & Stan & Kathy Hobson. We also had a table set aside for past IASCD Presidents including Kevin Koester, Rod Robison, Art Beal, & Kyle Hawley.

2012 Award winners

Doyle Scott: Matt Woodard

Grassman: Mike Guerry

Agency Award: Stan Haye

Field Office: Rigby Field Office

RN Irving: Mark Olson

The IASCD Board of Directors wishes to thank all those who served on the Division VI Conference Planning Committee. These individuals put in hundreds of volunteer hours to plan and execute an incredible 70th anniversary celebration! Lynn Bagley, Kathy Weaver, Robbie Taylor, Joyce Smith, Delbert & June Winterfeld, Rick Passey, Matt Woodard, Becky Crystal, Lori Ringel, Karma Bragg, Rod Robison, Mel Briggs, Wendy Andrews, Virginia Grosse, and Denise Dalling.

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Five Minute Supervisor Training

What Are Public Records?

[Idaho state code](#) defines public record as any writing containing information relating to the conduct or administration of the public's business prepared, owned, used, or retained by any state agency, independent public body corporate and politic or local agency regardless of physical form or characteristics."

Whew!

A 1990 state supreme court case also held that personal notations made by a county clerk during an open meeting were part of the public record, even though these were raw notes. Email is also considered a public record, and is subject to the same laws as any other public record.

So what responsibility does a soil conservation district have for providing access to records? [Section 9-338\(1\)](#) provides that the right to inspect and receive a copy of public records at all reasonable times is absolute, unless the record is exempt from disclosure. Also, your district is required under [section 9-338\(5\)](#) to extend reasonable comfort and facility to the individual requesting public records. This means you can't stick someone in a dark, cold closet with bread and water when they request to review your public documents.

Finally, your district cannot deny access to records because the record may contain exempt and non-exempt information. It is your job to separate exempt information from the public record when the request is made.

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