

# 10 Minute Supervisor Trainings



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## Are You An Engaged Conservation District Board Member?

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“Conservation is a positive exercise of skill and insight, not merely a negative exercise of abstinence and caution.”-Aldo Leopold

According to merriam-webster.com one of the definitions of engaged is “involved in often constant activity”. Some synonyms according the site are “active, busy, diligent, and occupied”. Think for a moment about your personal involvement with the conservation district in your county. Would you consider yourself an engaged conservation district board member?

Most conservation district boards rely heavily on the office staff to manage the programs and the daily operations of the conservation district. Some districts have multiple employees hired to perform such duties. Although having knowledgeable and dedicated employees goes a long way in having a productive and progressive conservation district, you as a conservation district board member should be knowledgeable of the programs offered by the conservation district, involved in the activities and operations of the conservation district and prepared to answer questions pertaining those programs, activities and operations.

A progressive and productive conservation district board should have a good balance of zeal, wisdom and energy. Your board needs zeal to be able to create and embrace new ideas, programs and projects. You need wisdom on the board in order to know how to accomplish these things. You also need wisdom on the board to understand why you can't or shouldn't do some things, as well. Lastly, you need energy in order to get the job done.

Some ways to become a more engaged conservation district board member:

Show up

1. Be involved in board meetings (virtual and/or in person meetings)
2. Assist with activities and programs
3. Attend area and state meetings
4. Participate in supervisor trainings

**“Decisions are made by those who show up.”-Aaron Sorkin**

Be Present

1. Interact with the Board/Staff/and Visitors (Make the new folks feel at ease)
2. Focus and participate
3. Listen effectively
4. Put away distractions like your phone or devices

**“You can make more friends in two months by becoming interested in other people than you can in two years by trying to get other people interested in you.”-Dale Carnegie**

Have an Open Mind

1. Be positive
2. Explore new ways of doing things (virtual meetings and programs)
3. Embrace creativity
4. Practice gratitude

**“Everyone wants to be appreciated, so if you appreciate someone, don’t keep it a secret.”-Mary Kay Ash**

Remember that what you do is important!

