



10-Minute Supervisor Trainings

Kentucky Soil and Water Conservation Commission

APRIL 2015

BEING A GOOD CONSERVATION DISTRICT SUPERVISOR

As the district starts a new year with possibly new board members, it is a great time to consider what each board member should do to be an effective leader on the board.

A board supervisor should be a good leader, both on the board and in the community. A well-working district board will have members who are all working toward a common goal of better conservation within their district.

Some leadership qualities of a board supervisor:

1. Puts his/her agenda aside and does what's best for the district
2. Builds a sense of fellowship among those with whom he/she works
3. Sees the big picture
4. Is trusted by the other members of the board and staff
5. Communicates well, in writing and verbally
6. Works well on a team
7. Is accepting of people with opinions different than his/hers
8. Asks questions which challenge the status quo
9. Understands the organization's finances and takes fiscal responsibility
10. Has a strong commitment to the mission of the organization.





District Supervisors Should...

- Participate in district board meetings and actions
- Keep well-informed about developments relevant to issues that may come before the district board
- Recognize that all authority is vested in the full district board only when it meets in legal sessions
- Respect and support majority decisions of the district board
- Not discuss the confidential proceedings of the district board outside of board meetings
- Represent all those whom the district serves, not just a particular geographic area or interest group
- Bring to the attention of the district board any issues that they believe will have an adverse effect on the district or those that the district serves
- Declare conflicts of interest between personal life and their position on the district board
- Abstain from voting or discussion when appropriate
- Refer complaints to the proper level on the chain of command
- Consider themselves a “trustee” of the district and do their best to ensure that it is well maintained; financially secure; growing; and always operating in the best interests of those whom the district serves
- Always work on how to do their jobs better

What can returning supervisors do to get new supervisors up to speed?

- Make sure the new supervisor knows what the board’s mission and duties are
- Provide the new member with an updated copy of the district’s policy and procedures manual
- Provide the new member with a copy of the supervisor’s handbook (found on DOC’s website)
- Include the new supervisor on committees and workgroups
- Be available to answer questions about the district’s programs