



10-Minute Supervisor Trainings

Kentucky Soil and Water Conservation Commission

AUGUST 2017

KACD COLLABORATIVE CONSERVATION DISTRICT SURVEY

WHO WE ARE - KACD Collaborative Conservation District Survey Planning Committee Members:

- Steve Coleman soil1951@yahoo.com – KACD, Committee Chairman
- David Rowlett d.rowlett@twc.com -- KACD
- Shane Wells swells@logantele.com --KACD
- Kevin Jefferies kevinjeff@bellsouth.net --KACD
- Ray Adams rayladams@yahoo.com -- Soil & Water Commission
- Kayleigh Evans kayleigh.evans@ky.nacdnet.net --KACDE
- Reed Cripps reed.cripps@ky.usda.gov -- NRCS
- Pam Williams pam.williams@ky.gov --Division of Conservation

WHAT WE ARE DOING - This committee has developed a survey tool for conservation districts and conservation partners to reveal results for a better understanding of conservation district collaborative efforts, share success stories and strengthen our conservation partnerships.

The Kentucky Association of Conservation District's leadership on behalf of the Kentucky Conservation Partnership will assess local, regional, and state levels of conservation districts' perceived levels of collaboration, identify factors that influence our partnership's collaborative processes, and identify themes and examples of successful methods of collaboration among our districts. This assessment will allow the partnership a clear perspective on current activities, as well as provide strategies to ensure conservation districts and the partnership is poised for the challenges and opportunities of the future.

WHO WILL WE TARGET - Initially the survey and survey tool will be used to examine the current levels of collaboration and the collaborative strategies, techniques, and relationships of Kentucky's 121 conservation districts. The survey will take approximately 15 minutes to complete and will be done online by individual district supervisors, district employees, KACD Directors, Soil & Water Commissioners and watershed conservancy directors only. The various targeted individuals participating in this survey will provide insight in an attempt to learn if perceptions of collaboration differ between board members and staff implementing board action and whether the partnership has a clear understanding of local concerns and needs. Individual participation and responses will be anonymous which aims to gather more open responses on that individual basis.

Results will be tabulated by county, area, region and statewide and will be shared with the full conservation district partnership in an effort to educate, inform and improve upon current collaborative efforts. In subsequent years the tool and survey may be utilized to gain relevant information from partnering agencies, organizations, civic groups, educators etc.

Results will be tabulated by county so every district should have 7 board member surveys and at least 1 or more district employee surveys completed prior to October 31. You are highly encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity to have your voice heard at this time. Survey results will only reflect the responses that are received, so be heard!

WHAT WILL BE INVOLVED - The survey instrument intends to capture both collaboration levels overall at an organizational level using a one to five scale which breaks down collaboration into six equally important variables of success — environment, membership, process and structure, communication, purpose, and resources, and then measures the current perceived levels of each independent variable and its sub-factors. Open-ended, more qualitative, questions focused on themes of collaborative structures, the benefits and challenges to collaboration, and the resources or strategies conservation districts utilize when collaborating. A final question measuring the desired level of collaborative efforts that each local conservation district would like to be involved. Additionally this is the opportunity to capture information that identifies conservation resources concerns and needs at the local and state level.

WHEN WILL WE DO IT –

Kick-off of Project at 2017 KACD Convention

Information and instructions on the survey distributed by August 2017

Surveys completed July – October 31, 2017

Survey data compiled November 2017 through January 2018

Preliminary results presented at Spring Area Meetings – February through April 2018

Final report presented at 2018 KACD Annual Convention.

WHAT WILL WE ACCOMPLISH - The findings, conclusions, and recommendations will provide worthwhile insight into areas of success, transfer of success stories, and identification of strategies to strengthen local and state partners. This effort will assist local conservation districts and the partnership to focus on better outreach efforts, strengthen our position in our local communities and Commonwealth, and better communicate the accomplishments of our Conservation Partnership to local conservation districts.

HOW DO YOU PARTICIPATE – Visit this website <https://goo.gl/forms/EUskFowlrxWWe2IE2> to complete the online survey. It is expected to take approximately 15 minutes. All responses are anonymous. If you have any questions or concerns email Steve Coleman at soil1951@yahoo.com