



# 10-Minute Supervisor Trainings

Kentucky Soil and Water Conservation Commission

SEPTEMBER 2010

## **SUPERVISOR ETHICS**

### **Code of Ethics**

The Kentucky Soil and Water Conservation Commission, Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts and Local Conservation Districts are committed to the highest standard of conduct by and among conservation district board members in the performance of their duties. It is imperative that each adhere to high ethical standards as public officials in carrying out their duties. Ethics are essential in maintaining the public trust and confidence in government.

**Conservation district boards must be accountable to themselves and each other on matters of conduct. Proper ethics begin with each board member.**

The principles contained in the Ethics Statements below provide valuable guidance in reaching decisions which are governed, ultimately, by the dictation of the individual conscience of the public official and his or her commitment to the public good.

### **As a member of the Board I will:**

- Properly administer the affairs of the district.
- Listen to fellow board members and the people I serve.
- Respect the opinion of fellow board members.
- Respect and support the decisions of the board.
- Promote decisions which only benefit the public interest.
- Keep safe all funds and properties of the district.
- Maintain a positive image to pass constant public scrutiny.
- Keep well-informed of developments that are relevant to issues that may come before the board.
- Treat all employees fairly and equitably.
- Call to the attention of the board any issues that I believe will have an adverse effect of the District or the people I serve.
- Always work to learn more about the board member's job and how to do the job better.
- Consider myself a "trustee" of the District and do my best to ensure that the District is well maintained, financially secure, growing and always acting in the best interest of the people I serve.
- Declare any conflicts of interest between myself and the District board, and avoid voting on issues that appear to be a conflict of interest.
- Regularly attend board meetings.



**As a Member of the Board I will NOT:**

- Be critical, in or outside of the board meeting of fellow board members or their opinions.
- Use the District or any part of the organization (State or Federal) for my personal advantage or the personal advantage of friends and relatives.
- Engage in outside interests that are not compatible with the impartial and objective performance of my duties.
- Improperly influence or attempt to influence other officials to act in my own benefit.
- Accept anything of value from any source which is offered to influence my actions as a public official.
- Discuss the confidential proceedings of the board outside the board meeting.
- Promise prior to the meeting how I will vote on any issue in the meeting.



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**Discussion :**

- 1. What personality traits are important to you as a supervisor?**
- 2. Are there other things that you as a supervisor can do to be more ethical?**
- 3. Why are ethics important in your role as a supervisor?**