District Supervisors and Staff,

 The National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) has opened their Technical Assistance (TA) Grants Request for Proposals (RFP), with a due date of June 6. Part of the NACD TA Grant process is working with state associations, state NRCS and state departments of agriculture to prioritize projects in their state. In previous years, IASWCD has worked with NRCS and ISDA to look at high work load areas and prioritize applications where needed. This year we are establishing a new process that will open up the NACD TA Grants to more districts.

Like the previous rounds of TA grants, this funding will help conservation districts build capacity and enhance their ability to provide conservation planning and technical assistance to customers. These funds, provided in cooperation with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), will be administered by NACD to conservation districts in high-priority workload locations across the nation. This year, we are asking districts to complete a draft application that they will submit to IASWCD for review and prioritization, while simultaneously submitting an application using the online NACD submission. Once we have all submitted applications, IASWCD will work with both NRCS and ISDA to provide a priority ranking to NACD. Please see the timeline for application submission at the state level below:

**May 7- May 28:**               Application period – Districts will complete the draft [NACD grant application sheet](https://www.nacdnet.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/TA-grant-RFP-Worksheet.pdf%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) and [NACD budget sheet](https://www.nacdnet.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/TA-Budget-Worksheet.xlsx%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) and submit to IASWCD (send to joseph-schmees@iaswcd.org),  while simultaneously submitting an [online application to NACD](https://nacd.formstack.com/workflows/tagrant_rfp_app) (Please note that NACD asks if you have permission from state partners to submit; you will answer yes).

**May 29 – June 6**:             IASWCD, NRCS and ISDA will rank submitted Indiana applications and submit their ranking to NACD.

**June 6**:                              Final applications and priority ranking are due to NACD.

You can find the detailed RFP, Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document, TA Grant Webinar Recording, and other important information on NACD’s TA Grant Webpage (<https://www.nacdnet.org/technical-assistance-grants/2021-technical-assistance-grants/>). Please note that applications received by IASWCD after 11:59 PM on May 28 will not be considered in the priority ranking. If you have any questions about the Indiana review process, please let me know. If you have questions about the NACD TA Grants, please reach out the NACD contact on their webpage.

**Joe Schmees**

*Executive Director*

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