



CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS – DEADLINE April 3, 2020

2021 Soil and Water Conservation Districts Annual Conference January 11-12, 2021

The Westin Indianapolis, Indianapolis, Indiana

Conference Overview

Each year, Annual Conference offers a unique learning and training opportunity for Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisors, Staff, and Conservation Partners (such as state and federal agency staff). We again anticipate over 350 attendees representing local/state/ regional/national organizations, public agencies, businesses and more.

Oral presentations are invited to be considered on topics relating to three session tracks: On the Ground (conservation implementation/technical), District Management, and Outreach & Education.

Abstract Submission

Oral Presentations should keep in mind that the SWCD staff and supervisors are the primary audience. Abstracts for presentations should address suggested topics within one of the identified session tracks. Suggested topics are listed below.

Abstracts for consideration should be submitted by April 3, 2020 to Joe Schmees at joseph-schmees@iaswcd.org. Please use the subject line “SWCD Abstract”. Or, you can fill out the Google form at <http://bit.ly/Abstracts2021>. The 2021 Conference Planning committee will convene in early April to review the abstracts. Please note that not all abstracts will necessarily be accepted for a presentation. Abstracts should include the following elements and not exceed one page:

Title: The title should accurately summarize the subject of the proposed presentation.

Presenter(s): Provide names and an affiliation of all presenters (mailing address, phone, e-mail).

Text: Abstract should state the purpose/issue/topic, methods of addressing it, significant results, main conclusion of presentation, and targeted audience.

Format: Oral, please indicate length of presentation (session times are 1 or 1.25 hours)

Abstract Schedule

- Friday, April 3 – Deadline for abstract submission
- June 1 – Notification of abstract acceptance or non-acceptance

Registration Fees

Please note that full and/or one-day conference registration fees are not waived for accepted presentations. If you plan to only attend your session, then there is no fee and parking will be provided.

Further Information

For more information on the conference, please contact Joe Schmees at joseph-schmees@iaswcd.org or (317) 692-7519. Additional information on the IASWCD is available at www.iaswcd.org

On the Ground (examples only):

- Soil health;
- Innovative conservation farming technologies;
- Invasive species control and /or cooperative weed management areas;
- Conservation practices on highly erodible lands;
- Pollinators;
- Urban conservation practices;
- Forestry best management practices;
- Watershed/Water quality;
- Alternative livestock and grazing practices;
- Sustainable agriculture, permaculture, and niche markets or practices (such as organic/no-till organic);
- Technical tools training (such as soil maps);
- Federal and/or state conservation program/policy overviews; etc.

District Management (examples only):

- Human resource issues;
- Policy issues;
- Roles and responsibilities of SWCD supervisors;
- Increasing Board diversity
- History of soil and water conservation districts;
- SWCD funding ideas;
- Relationships and projects with local community foundations;
- Beyond business plan development – yearly work plans and implementation;
- New partnership opportunities
- Grassroots advocacy;
- Customer service;
- Diversity (customers) training, etc.

Outreach & Education (examples only):

- Marketing your SWCD; social media
- Planning and implementing field days;
- Marketing Farm Bill programs to new audiences;
- SWCD involvement with Farmer's Markets/Community Supported Agriculture;
- Nontraditional partnerships;
- SWCD newsletters and annual reports;
- Working with local media;
- Building a SWCD awards program;
- Educating landowners (especially absentees);
- Serving minority and underserved communities
- New education programs, etc.