



National Watershed Coalition
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NWC Officers

Mark Gilbert, Chairman
 Rex Isom, Vice-Chairman
 Charles Easterling, Past Chairman
 Barb Oltjen, Secretary Treasurer
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National Watershed Coalition

The National Watershed Coalition is a nonprofit organization composed of national, regional, state, and local organizations, associations and individuals who advocate using watersheds as the planning and implementation unit when dealing with natural resource problems.

January 2017

Dear Watershed Friends

The National Watershed Coalition along with our members and partners enjoyed tremendous success this past year. 2016 saw an expansion in both the depth and detail for our watershed interests and efforts in Washington, DC. Through our members we were able to keep watershed program authorities, authorization and funding mechanisms in the forefront as Congress deliberated the budget package. As I write to you there are new Watershed Program dollars for EWP, Rehab and RCPP work in play. Current unfinished budget work in Congress includes \$150 million dollars for Watershed Operations in the Senate version of the proposed Appropriations bill. NWC's education efforts with sponsors provided the constituent support necessary for the successful inclusion of these funds in the budget during challenging financial times.



Our members and staff provided technical assistance, made presentations and conducted training and outreach activities. We attended conferences and provided assistance to sponsors all across the country. From Texas to South Dakota, from South Carolina to Colorado and on to several places between and beyond we had the opportunity to work with committed sponsors. Our efforts spurred improvements in program delivery as well as the assistance that NRCS provides to Watershed Project sponsors.

The Coalition was also successful in creating new opportunities for Watershed Project work through our continuing support for the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP). We worked diligently to make sure Watershed Program work was eligible and we continue to work at all levels to increase the opportunities for project sponsors. Building on training and consultation sessions designed to help sponsors become more competitive in the RCPP process we provided development assistance, proposal review and I&E services for RCPP proposals. Nine new RCPP watershed projects were announced in December 2016.

NWC members continued to shine in their response to record flooding scattered throughout 2016. Members in several states used their NWC training in the response to the challenges of record rainfall. We provided assistance in the areas of public information, pursuit of emergency repair funds as well as inspection training and assistance following the events of this year.

2017 brings challenges and opportunities on several fronts. The on-going needs of sponsors as they work to meet the responsibilities of sponsorship will have both our time and our attention. We will renew our education efforts in Washington, DC as the new Administration and new Congress unfold. Will you join us to work together to build on the NWC Watershed accomplishments of 2016? We need your continued energy, wisdom and support in 2017! As your Chairman I am well aware that an active coalition is essential to success in all matters concerning the Watershed Program!

For current members, I ask you to please renew your membership. For potential members, I ask you to give us a look and join the Coalition. A strong membership base and an active national network make us even stronger and more effective in our efforts. Please join us.

Mark Gilbert, NWC Chairman

Mark Your Calendars

2017 National Watershed Conference

The 2017 National Watershed Conference will be held September 25-27, 2017, at the Lied Lodge and Conference City in Nebraska City, Nebraska.

Our 2017 Conference represents an historic joint meeting with the National Association of State Conservation Agencies Association (NASCA).

Don't miss this chance to interact with watershed and state conservation agency leaders from across the nation.

With Your Support in 2017 the NWC Will:

- ◆ Continue working with sponsors to build partnerships with agencies and organizations that share the same goals and objectives. Partnerships equal strength.
- ◆ Keep members informed of Congressional activities that could affect project sponsors through the NWC website, FaceBook page, Enews, and direct mail.
- ◆ Continue to publish information materials about watershed dam rehabilitation. NWC is assisting NRCS in updating the national watershed rehabilitation status report to highlight the accomplishments and needs for rehabilitation of aging watershed dams.
- ◆ Continue to keep USDA-NRCS informed and educated concerning the technical assistance and program support needs of watershed project sponsors.
- ◆ Assist NRCS with watershed program manager training to improve watershed technical assistance delivery and customer service to watershed project sponsors
- ◆ Build leadership capacity and volunteer opportunities for watershed project sponsors through NWC sponsored activities.
- ◆ Continue to provide individual direct assistance to state watershed coalitions as well as state and local governments.
- ◆ Continue outreach, guidance and consultation with watershed program partners.
- ◆ Work with our partners to find more ways to address operation and maintenance concerns across the nation.
- ◆ Continue to work with national leaders for approval of new projects, funding for existing projects and funding for rehabilitation of aging dams.

To receive NWC Action Alerts, ENews and other emails, send your email address to nwcokoffice@gmail.com

