



National Watershed Coalition
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NWC Officers

Rex Isom, Chairman
 Brad Shedd, Vice-Chairman
 Mark Gilbert, Immediate Past Chairman
 Barb Oltjen, Secretary Treasurer
 Dr. Dan Sebert, Executive Director

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 2018

Dear Friends,

Your commitment to watershed work and the National Watershed Coalition is an important part of our continuing success. Each year we ask you to consider joining or renewing your NWC membership. The dues you pay make it possible for us to continue our efforts to support our watershed partners through education, advocacy and action. Your NWC membership is important to us and we work hard to produce significant results!



2017 was a good year for the National Watershed Coalition, the USDA Small Watershed Program and project sponsors across the Nation. As Chairman of the National Watershed Coalition I know that the success the NWC and Watershed Program partners enjoyed was not an accident. Our members, our Board of Directors and our staff worked at many levels to create an environment for progress and success. Whether in Washington, DC or out in the countryside our ideas and actions made a difference.

A successful national conference in partnership with the National Association of State Conservation Agencies, Watershed training and continuing education sessions, testifying about the needs and benefits of the Watershed Program before Congress, and speaking at State and local conferences across the country are just a few of the highlights of 2017. I would point you to our Website and our Facebook page for additional information about our activities and successes this past year. You will discover a host of resources for project sponsors there.

We also provided assistance and consultation to our members, Watershed and Watershed RCPP project sponsors, our partner organizations and to our friends at USDA-NRCS. Through partnerships this aspect of our work has taken a leap forward as budgets for many local, state and national agency efforts have grown tighter and tighter. I know that our work with our partners has helped address some of the challenges we all face as they relate to meeting Watershed Program responsibilities in times of reduced revenue. Our Coalition staff along with the tremendous resource our members represent are always just a phone call or an email away. We may not always know the answer, the answer may not be easy...but we are always willing to engage and give your needs our very best effort.

In 2017 we provided information and served as a source of educational expertise on matters related to the USDA-NRCS Watershed Program. Recently one of our most frequent requestors for Watershed education and information has been the US Congress. This work is a gratitude builder for us as Congressional Staff and members call, quote and download information from our website and Facebook page. In 2017 the educational information we provided translated into a stronger Watershed Program and a stronger USDA-NRCS partner for project sponsors.

The NWC staff and membership also spend time and resources with our USDA-NRCS partners through a Cooperative Contribution Agreement. Under the agreement we pursue a number of activities that are beneficial to USDA-NRCS and Watershed Sponsors across the country.

Whether it is producing educational materials, providing webinar and on site in person training, promoting the benefits of watershed work done by our sponsor members or sharing management and administrative strategies for watershed work across State or geographic boundaries...we are proud of the work, the products and the benefits realized and produced in cooperation with USDA-NRCS.

2018 holds great promise for the Coalition and watershed work. Our ability to achieve success in 2018 is tied directly to your participation, input and expertise. The strength of the Coalition is found in the ideas and actions of our members. Please consider joining or renewing your membership. The forms and instructions can be found in this mailing as well as on our website: www.watershedcoalition.org. We're counting on you.

Sincerely,
 Rex Isom

With Your Support in 2018 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.

