**Colorado Association’s 2018 Annual Meeting – “CACD in Partnership with Conservation Districts”**

Colorado Association of Conservation Districts (CACD) wrapped up its 74th Annual Meeting on Thursday, November 29th, 2018. The conference included two days of meetings, speakers, break-out sessions and great collaboration between conservation district managers, staff and supervisors, partners and producers! The keynote speaker Wednesday morning was NACD President Brent Van Dyke, followed by special guest speakers Jeff Burwell, NACD Western Issues Specialist; Commissioner Don Brown, CO Dept. of Ag, Clint Evans, NRCS CO State Conservationist; and Cindy Lair, CO Soil Conservation Board Program Manager. CACD President Scott Jones also addressed the membership. Brian Allmer of the Barn Media and Colorado Ag News Network videotaped the speakers and posted them on his web site. Brian will be "lifting" the audio from these videos to use in various ways OnAir. He is also sending this information to the National Association of Farm Broadcasters for them to post on their "Long-form" Video page for all NAFB Broadcasters to use. The guest luncheon speaker from the Walton Family Foundation was Jill Ozarski, Program Officer for the Colorado River Initiative.

In total there were approximately 210 attendees with 44 districts represented. Attendees included district supervisors, district employees NACD, NRCS and Colorado Soil Conservation Board partner attendees and employees, as well as other state partnering organizations and producers, award recipients and guests, and many exhibitors.

The resource committee meetings took place Wednesday afternoon, where thirteen resolutions were presented. Five resolutions made it onto the Consent Calendar as written, four passed in committee and two approved as amended, with one defeated in committee. The General Assembly Membership meeting took place Thursday afternoon, where seven resolutions passed and one defeated. The CACD Board of Directors and Legislative Committee would like to thank all of those who served on the 2018 Resource Committees.

The 2018 group meetings and breakout sessions included the newcomers meeting, resource committee overview meeting, employees’ association meeting,Greg Peterson, Executive Director; Colorado Ag Water Alliance*-Stream Management and Agriculture,*Heather Knight; Assoc. Director-CSU Center for Collaborative Conservation; *New Collaborations for People and Land,* Gretchen Rank, ED Mancos CD/Nikki Brinson, District Operations Manager CSCB; *Mill Levy: Practical, Informational and Financial Considerations****,*** Nikki Brinson, District Operations Manager-CSCB; *Changes in Direct Assistance; Statutory Requirements and Where to Find Them,*Callie Hendrickson, ED White River & Douglas Creek CD; *Managing Healthy Wild Horses and Burros on Healthy Rangelands; Tools and the Tool Box,* Ken Morgan, DOW: *DOW Wildlife Programs****,*** Jennifer Cook & John Rizza, NRCS/CSU Extension; Small Acreage Management***,*** *Working with Colorado Small Acreage Landowners and Urban Farmers.*

NRCS also held staff meetings Thursday. CACD held their live auction and District Employees Association held their silent auction during the convention. Proceeds from the live auction help to offset CACD New Supervisor Scholarships to the annual meeting as well as general expenses for CACD including the annual educational expenses. Proceeds from the Employees Association silent auction go toward district employee scholarships to attend the CACD Annual Meeting. The 2018 Expo was also a huge success with a total of 24 exhibitors in attendance.