**CACD’s 2018 Annual Meeting – “CACD in Partnership with 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! Our 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, CSCB Program Manager. CACD President Scott Jones also addressed the membership. Our special guest luncheon speaker from the Walton Family Foundation was Jill Ozarski, Program Officer for the Colorado River Initiative.

Speakers for our General Membership Session held Thursday morning included CACD’s legislative liaison Brett Moore with OnTheBallot Consulting who gave a 2018 legislative recap and update to the general assembly. Cindy Lair, CSCB Program Manager, gave the introduction and the presentation of the first CACD/CSCB/NRCS Partner Educational video.

In total there were approximately 210 attendees with approximately 44 districts represented. Attendees included district supervisors, district employees NACD, NRCS and CSCB 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 morning and Thursday afternoon. CACD held their live auction and CACDEA held their silent auction during the convention. Proceeds from the live auction help to offset CACD New Supervisor Scholarships to the CACD Annual meeting as well as general expenses for CACD including the Annual Meeting and annual educational expenses. Proceeds from the Employees Association silent auction go toward district employee scholarships to attend the CACD Annual Meeting. CACD would like to thank all districts, producers and individuals who donated items and sponsored and helped with these two events. The 2018 Expo was also a huge success with a total of 24 exhibitors in attendance.

CACD Board of Directors would like to thank all who were involved in the planning, development and facilitation of the CACD 74th Annual Meeting. We are humbled and grateful for the many volunteers from the conservation districts, producers, exhibitors, state partners, partner affiliates and all attendees who made this year’s convention a huge success!