

2012 Goals and Objectives – State Conservation Commission

Vision: Everyone has safe and clean air, water, and food.

Mission Statement: To conserve and develop South Dakota's natural resources by leading, promoting and assisting our citizens to achieve clean air, water and food.

Goal # 1. Secure stable funding for conservation programs.

- a. Continue to explore opportunities to increase base funding from a baseline of \$450,000.
- b. Survey the districts for existing financial support from the counties for natural resource conservation. Inform districts about the state statutes regarding mill levy potential and support them in meetings with the counties for conservation funding.

Goal # 2. Implement the SD Coordinated Plan for Natural Resources Conservation

- a. Revise and update the state conservation plan every five years that is accepted by the administration and the legislature. Strive for citizen input into the planning process.
- b. Establish state priorities annually to guide state agencies in targeting natural resource conservation efforts.
- c. Continue to promote participation in the state interagency workgroup that will develop and/or revise policy and procedures annually.
- d. Be actively engaged in the development of an action plan to start addressing Missouri River issues.

Goal # 3. Provide the opportunity for all citizens to have an understanding of the benefits of conservation.

- a. Establish an increased visibility on electronic media.
 - a. Promote the 75th anniversary of the conservation district law in 2012.
- b. Educate non-agricultural groups on how farm and ranch conservation practices improve their quality of life.
- c. Establish a portion of the conservation grant fund to assist the districts and SDACD with media outreach.
- d. Dedicate one commission meeting each year to bio-energy and carbon sequestration issues.

Goal #4. Assist conservation districts in carrying out their responsibilities.

- a. Place a higher priority on conservation grants that increase technical staff available to districts.
- b. Accelerate the existing statewide training program for district supervisors and employees
- c. Place a higher priority on conservation grants to districts using joint powers agreements.
- d. Give greater consideration to conservation commission grants that are short duration in length and have a greater probability of completion during the grant period.