



# National Association of State Conservation Agencies

[nascanet.org](http://nascanet.org)





# Welcome to Duluth!

Thank you for attending the 2024 Annual Meeting of the National Association of State Conservation Agencies in Duluth, Minnesota. We are thrilled to bring together conservation professionals from federal, state, and local levels. With an exceptional lineup of speakers, valuable networking opportunities, and an exciting field tour, we're certain you'll leave with insights and experiences to share when you return home!

## Note from the NASCA President



Welcome to Duluth, Minnesota for the National Association of State Conservation Agencies (NASCA) 2024 Annual Meeting! I would like to thank the NASCA Annual Meeting Committee for planning a great meeting and our fantastic colleagues in Minnesota for the warm hospitality of their beautiful state.

Each year when I start preparing for the NASCA Annual Meeting, I get excited. I get excited to see our NASCA family exchange ideas, strengthen networks, build relationships, and move our important mission of locally-led conservation forward in their respective states. Whether you are attending the Directors or State Ideas Sharing Session, I challenge each of you to take an idea from another state that interests you and try to implement it back in your state. I know firsthand the positive effects of idea sharing and I have no doubt you will see those positive effects, too.

NASCA is an organization that truly brings like-minded conservation professionals together for the betterment of locally-led conservation. This is the meeting to create that new connection, seek or become a mentor, and establish lifelong conservation friendships.

I look forward to engaging with you all this week!

**Tyler Brown**  
*NASCA President*



# Agenda

Tuesday, October 8

Sunday, October 6

**9:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

NASCA Board Meeting  
*Eagle Harbor*

**3:00 PM - 5:00 PM**

First-Timers Session  
*Northern Lights 1*

**5:30 PM - 7:30 PM**

Welcome Reception  
*Northern Lights 2*

Monday, October 7

**8:00 AM - 11:45 AM**

Directors Meeting  
*Eagle Harbor*

**8:00 AM - 11:45 AM**

State Ideas Sharing Session  
*Northern Lights 1*

**11:50 AM - 12:00 PM**

Load Buses for Tour

**12:00 PM - 5:00 PM**

Field Tour  
(w/ boxed lunch)  
Info found on page 10

**8:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

Directors Meeting  
*Eagle Harbor*

**8:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

State Ideas Sharing Session  
*Northern Lights 1*

**12:00 PM - 1:00 PM**

Lunch  
*Northern Lights 2*

**1:00 PM - 3:00 PM**

Region Meetings

**3:00 PM - 5:00 PM**

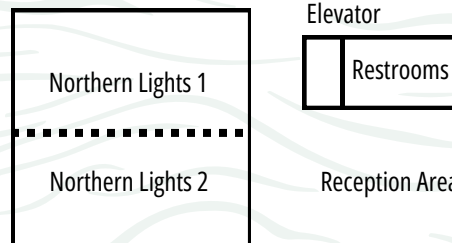
Directors Meeting  
*Eagle Harbor*

**3:00 PM - 5:00 PM**

State Ideas Sharing Session  
*Northern Lights 1*

## Hotel & Event Map

First Floor



Third Floor





# Wednesday, October 9

*Northern Lights*

**8:00 AM - 8:10 AM**

**Welcome to Duluth**

*Mayor Roger Reinert*

**8:10 AM - 8:30 AM**

**Welcome to Minnesota**

*Todd Holman*

**8:30 AM - 8:50 AM**

**NRCS Update**

*Chief Terry Cosby*

**8:50 AM - 9:40 AM**

**State Partner Panel**

*John Jaschke  
Troy Daniell  
Sheila Vanney*

**9:40 AM - 10:00 AM**

**State Ideas Sharing Presentation #1**

**10:00 AM - 10:15 AM**

**Break**

**10:15 AM - 11:00 AM**

**CREP Efforts in Minnesota**

*Sharon Doucette  
Angela Hanson  
Carrie Thomason  
Dusty Van Thuyne*

**11:00 AM - 11:30 AM**

**BWSR Academy**

*Jenny Gieske  
Jason Weirnerman  
Barbara Radke*

**11:30 AM - 11:50 AM**

**State Ideas Sharing Presentation #2**

**11:50 AM - 1:00 PM**

**Lunch**

**1:00 PM - 1:50 PM**

**Creating a Culture of Change with  
the Iowa Water Quality Initiative**

*Susan Kozak*

**1:50 PM - 2:10 PM**

**State Ideas Sharing Presentation #3**

**2:10 PM - 2:50 PM**

**Technical Training &  
Certification Program**

*Jon Sellnow  
Patrick Schultz*

**2:50 PM - 3:00 PM**

**Break**

**3:00 PM - 4:00 PM**

**President Reflections:  
Challenges & Opportunities**

*Tyler Brown*

**6:00 PM - 8:00 PM**

**President's Reception  
& Banquet**

# State Ideas Sharing Session Agenda

Monday, October 7

**8:00 AM**

**Opening Comments, Self-Introductions,  
Session Objectives & Agenda**

*Opening comments by Ray Ledgerwood*

**8:30 AM**

**Open Discussion Session**

**9:10 AM**

**Building District Capacity & Training &  
Partnerships**

*Montana's Partnerships & the 100 Million Dollar Trust |*

**Mary Hendrix**

*South Carolina's Archiving Project |* **John Hayes &**

**Jordan Baker**

*Washington's Strategic Planning Guide & a Unique*

*Conservation Partnership |* **Mike Baden &**

**Josh Giuntoli**

**9:50 AM**

**Break**

**10:00 AM**

**Building District Capacity & Training  
& Partnerships**

*Oklahoma's Onboarding & Offboarding of Conservation*

*District Employees | All Aboard the Crazy Train |* **Lacie**

**Landers & Lisa Grey**

*Minnesota's BWSR Local Implementers Discussions |*

**Julie Westerlund & Jeff Hrubes**

*Alabama's Bridging Perspectives: Enhancing State-Level*

*Conservation Efforts through Diverse Field Experience |*

**Kathy Gotcher & Cassandra Guliford**

*North Carolina Conservation Professional Development &*

*Training Program |* **Brandy Myers**

*Missouri's Building Capacity for Conservation |* **Jake**

**Wilson, Jim Plassmeyer, Josh Poynor &**

**Melissa Simmons**

**10:55 AM**

**Break**

**11:00 AM**

**District Operations & Funding**

*Colorado's District Conservation Technician Program |*

**Rakel Sanchez & Garth Schaefer**

*Ohio's District Support Programs |* **Tim Fulks**

*New Mexico's Enchanted Monies Putting Natural*

*Resource Conservation Projects in Action |*

**Miles Mitchell**

*Michigan's Accounting Support to Conservation Districts |*

**Nadene Berthiaume**

*Arkansas "The Field Staff's Guide to the Galaxy" |*

**Nick Richardson**

**12:00 PM**

**Lunch & Field Tour**

Tuesday, October 8

**8:00 AM**

**State Ideas Sharing Session Agenda Reviewed**

**8:10 AM**

**Informal Roundtable Discussion**

**8:40 AM**

**Program Delivery**

*Connecticut's Source Water Protection Project |*

**Lilian Ruiz**

*Ohio's Grazing Practice Potential RCPP |* **Rob Hamilton**

*West Virginia's Exigency Preparedness |* **Kaitlyn Jones**

*Iowa Department of Agriculture & Land Stewardship's*

*Urban Conservation Program - Structure & Function in*

*Alignment with other State Cost Share Programs |*

**Will Myers**

*West Virginia's Managing Nonpoint Source Pollution in*

*Karst Areas: Second Creek Watershed |* **Morgan Dial**

**Tuesday October 8  
(Cont.)**

**9:40 AM**

**Break**

**9:50 AM**

**Program Delivery (Cont.)**

*Utah's Livestock Watering Systems | **Parker Wayment**  
Arkansas' Water Use Registration Program | **Bob Fowler**  
Minnesota's BWSR/NRCS Soil Health Programming |  
**Jill Sackett-Eberhart**  
Kansas' NRCS Technical Grant Assistance & Local  
Implications | **Marsha Setzkorn-Meyer &  
Cathy Thompson**  
New Jersey's Conservation Trifecta | **Sandra Howland &  
Michael Kent***

**10:50 AM**

**Break**

**11:00 AM**

**Informal Roundtable Discussion**

**12:00 PM**

**Lunch**

**1:00 PM**

**NASCA Region Meetings**

**3:00 PM**

**Public Outreach & Marketing  
& Education**

*Kentucky's Junior Board Program | **Kimberly Bartley &  
Johnna McHugh**  
South Carolina's Stewardship Week | **Jennifer Morris &  
Jessica Egan**  
Minnesota's BWSR Conservation Communications |  
**Ann Wessel***

**3:45 PM**

**Informal Roundtable Discussion**

**4:30 PM**

**Select Plenary Session Presentations |  
Evaluation | Closing Comments**

**5:00 PM**

**Adjourn**



# Speakers



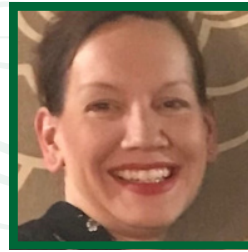
**Terry Cosby**  
*Chief*  
*Natural Resources Conservation Service*

NRCS Chief Terry Cosby leads a premier federal conservation agency known for its 3,000 field-office network that helps farmers, ranchers and private forest landowners nationwide plan and carry out voluntary conservation activities on their operations. During Cosby's more than 40-year career with NRCS, he has held numerous leadership and staff positions. He began his career as an NRCS intern in Iowa in 1979 and rose through the agency's ranks to become its 17th chief on May 24, 2021. Prior to his current position, Cosby served as NRCS's Acting Chief for several months. Prior to being named Acting Chief, Cosby served as NRCS State Conservationist in Ohio for 16 years. His other leadership positions include Deputy State Conservationist in Idaho, Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations in Missouri, and Area Resource Conservationist in Iowa.



**Troy Daniell**  
*Minnesota State Conservationist*  
*Natural Resources Conservation Service*

Minnesota NRCS is led by State Conservationist Troy Daniell. Daniell began his career as a range conservationist in Louisiana in 1996. He later became a district conservationist in Oklahoma for six years followed by seven years as an assistant state conservationist in Illinois. Daniell has also served in the agency's national headquarters as a member of the Initiatives Team 2008-2010, State Administrative Officer for Texas in 2011, State Financial Assistance Programs Manager for Texas 2012-2016, acting Branch Deputy of the Environmental Programs Branch in 2016, and acting Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations in East Texas in 2017. Daniell has served as the State Conservationist for Minnesota since 2018 and recently served on temporary assignment as the acting Projects Branch Chief at national headquarters in 2023. Daniell serves as a member of the Chiefs Advisory Committee, the National Technical Guide Committee, and as the Chair of the Soil Health Advisory Board.



**Sharon Doucette**  
*Easement Section Manager*  
*Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources*

Sharon Doucette has been the Easement Section Manager with the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) since 2019. She manages the section responsible for the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) easement program. Prior to BWSR, Doucette worked for the City of Woodbury for 16 years as the Environmental Resources Coordinator and served on the Clean Water Council. She started her career in natural resources with the Minneapolis Park Board after receiving her master's degree in Ecology and Natural Resources.



**Jenny Gieseke**  
*Organizational Effectiveness Manager*  
*Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources*

Jenny Gieseke is the manager of BWSR's Organizational Effectiveness section. She provides leadership in the agency's training, communication, strategic planning, and compliance efforts. Gieseke's previous work experience includes training coordination, watershed management and wetland delineation. Gieseke holds a B.S. in Ecology and an M.S. in Communications.



**Angela Hanson**  
*Chief Agricultural Program Specialist*  
*Farm Service Agency*

Angela Hanson began her career with FSA in 1998 in New York State. Since returning to Minnesota 12 years ago, she has been working with the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). She worked with the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) on the current Minnesota Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) Agreement.



**Todd Holman**  
*Mississippi Headwaters Program Director*  
*The Nature Conservancy*

Todd Holman is the Mississippi Headwaters Program Director for the MN-ND-SD Chapter of The Nature Conservancy. In 2016, Holman became the Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape coordinator, but has been a lead partner with the installation since 2004. Holman has formerly served as the planning director for two counties and the Community Development Director for the city of Baxter. Holman also served on the Baxter city council for 13-years prior to moving to St. Cloud and currently serves on the Board of Water and Soil Resources.



**John Jaschke**  
*Executive Director*  
*Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources*

John Jaschke is the Executive Director of the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR). He was formerly the Dakota County Water Resources Manager and the Administrator of the Vermillion River Watershed. His prior positions were as Land and Water Section Administrator and Wetlands Program Manager at BWSR, and Area Hydrologist with the DNR in Duluth and New Ulm. He has B.S. degrees in Geology and Geophysics and a M.A. in Public Administration.



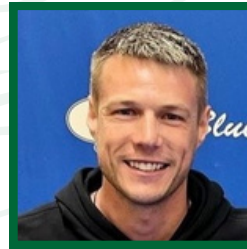
**Carrie Thomason**  
*Agricultural Program Specialist*  
*Farm Service Agency*

Carrie Thomason began her career with FSA in 2000. She has 18 years of experience working with the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), including working with three Conservation Reserve Enhancement Programs (CREPs) partnered with the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR).



**Roger J. Reinert**  
*Mayor of Duluth, Minnesota*

Roger Reinert was elected the 40th Mayor of the City of Duluth on November 7, 2023. He brings to the office relevant experience from the private, public, and military sectors. Reinert spent 18 years teaching undergraduate political science and legal courses, and graduate public policy classes. In addition to his Juris Doctorate, he also holds Bachelors and Masters in Science degrees. Prior to being elected Mayor, Reinert also served six years in the Minnesota Senate representing District 7, which covers nearly all of Duluth, and before that served two years in the Minnesota House of Representatives. He served five years on the Duluth City Council, where he was twice elected City Council President. Reinert is a Commander in the U.S. Navy Reserve, and is currently second-in-command of the Navy's largest Reserve Public Affairs unit.



**Dusty Van Thuyne**  
*Easement Programs Coordinator*  
*Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources*

Dusty Van Thuyne is an Easement Programs Coordinator for the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources and serves as the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) Coordinator for the agency. He earned his B.S. in biology from Bemidji State University and M.S. degree in biology from the University of North Dakota. Van Thuyne coordinates the Minnesota CREP program in partnership with the Farm Service Agency as well as the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Riparian and Floodplain Restoration program.



**Patrick Schultz**  
*Regional Training Engineer*  
*Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources*

Since 2020, Patrick Schultz has been with the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) as a Regional Training Engineer where he provides engineering support and training to the local conservation field office staff. Prior to BWSR he worked for eight years in a similar role in Wisconsin as an Area Engineer with the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP).



**Sheila Vanney**  
*Assistant Director*  
*Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts*

Sheila Vanney is assistant director for the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, where she has over 25 years of experience working on behalf of Minnesota's elected SWCD board members and their staff. Her focus is on policy development and legislative advocacy. Originally from the northwoods of Wisconsin, Vanney has a degree in forestry from UW-Madison, and a law degree from Mitchell Hamline College of Law in St. Paul.



**Jon Sellnow**  
*Technical Training and Certification Program Coordinator*  
*Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources*

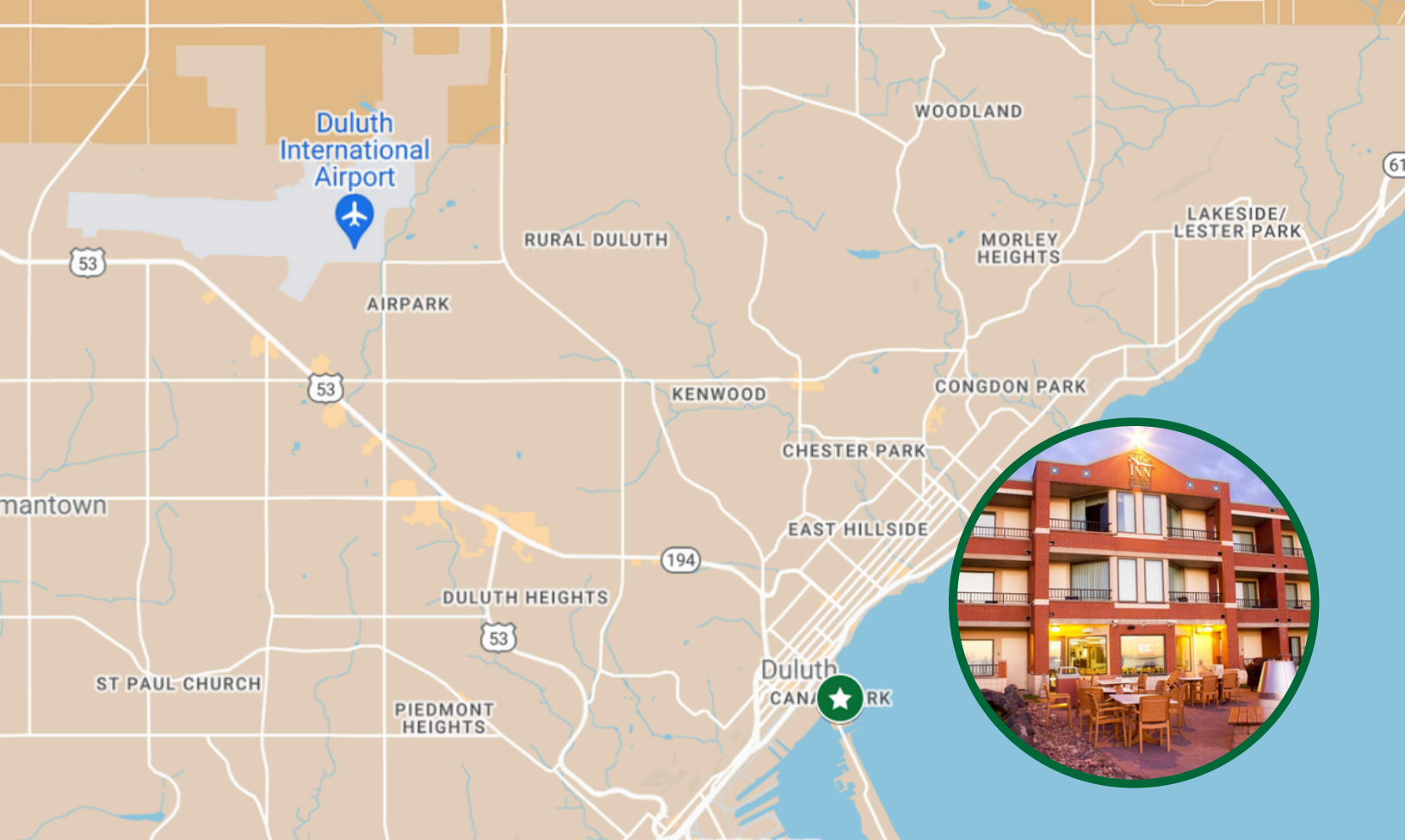
Jon Sellnow has been the coordinator for Minnesota's Technical Training and Certification Program since 2019. Prior to that he spent 17 years working for NRCS as a Soil Conservationist, District Conservationist, and Area Resource Conservationist.



**Jason Weinerman**  
*Board Conservationist*  
*Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources*

Jason Weinerman has worked with BWSR since 2006 as a Board Conservationist in which he serves as a liaison between the state and local government partners. His focus is on assisting local government staff and board members in working to achieve their natural resource and organizational goals. He holds a Master of Science degree in biology from the University of North Dakota.





**For any questions, please contact:**  
 Mike Beacom - (715) 340-0681  
 mikebeacom@nascanet.org

**The Inn on Lake Superior**  
 350 Canal Park Dr., Duluth, MN 55802  
 (218) 726-1111

## Partners in Conservation



Scan the QR code to check out the mobile program

