Director Leadership Development Program

NASCA STATE STAFF SHARING SESSION

OCTOBER 2022

District Directors – Oklahoma Basics

- 84 conservation districts
- Governing body of each conservation district is a district board
- Each district board is made up of 5 district directors
- 84 conservation districts x 5 district directors = 420 individuals (not counting associate directors)
- No statutory or rule authority to require directors to complete ANY continuing education/training – everything is voluntary

OACD Leadership Class

Organized and led by the Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts

Work in conjunction with a
variety of partners to deliver the program

A statewide educational conservation
focused leadership development program

One class each “year”
(current class will graduate in May 2023)

Participating directors complete
several classes pertaining to conservation
in Oklahoma

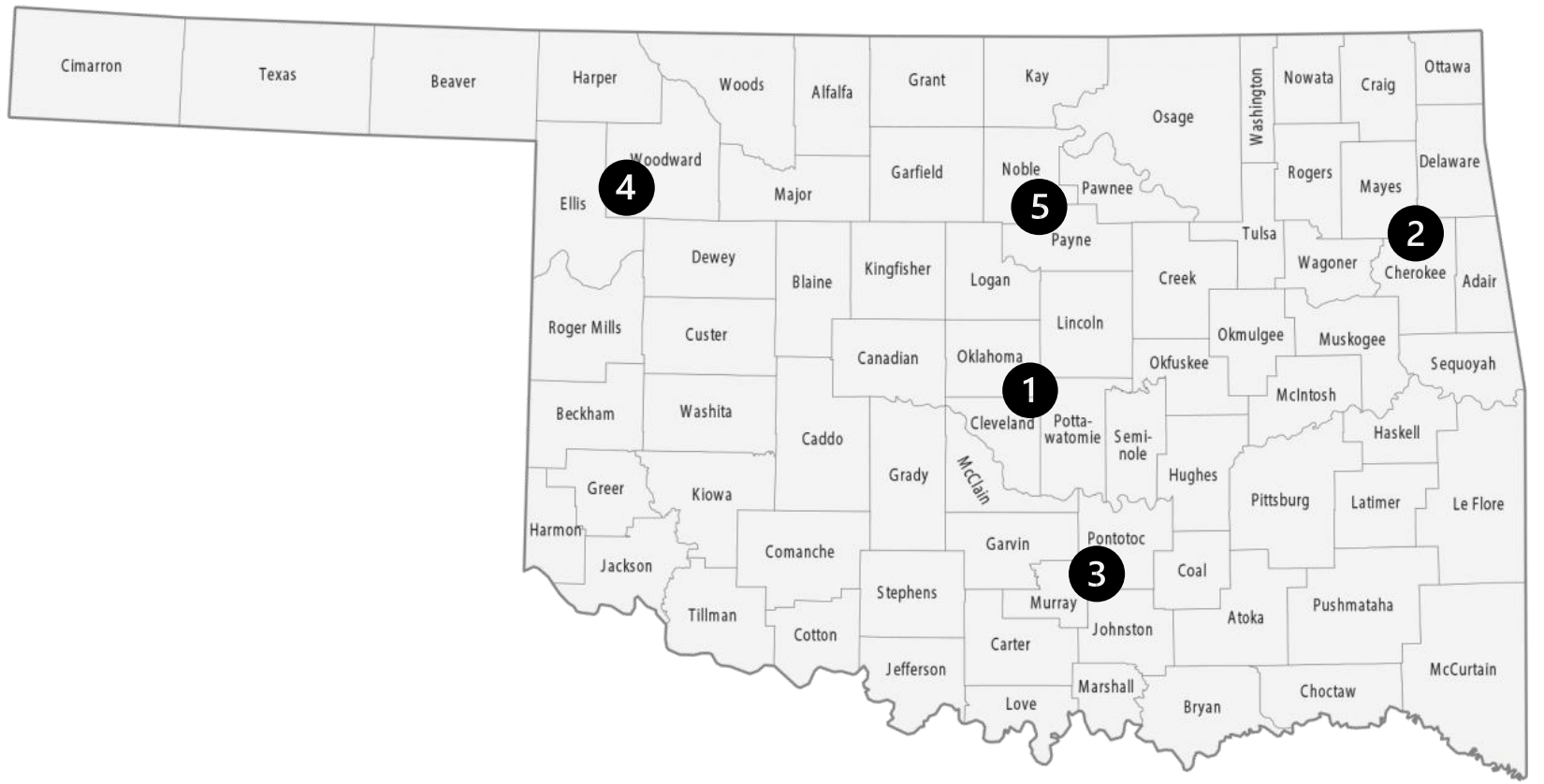


Sessions

Each session is spread over two days.

1. District Management & Operation, History of Conservation, & the Legislative Process
2. Water Quality
3. Upstream Flood Control & Cost-Share Programs
4. Soil Health & Conservation Planning
5. Conservation Partnership, Land Reclamation & Erosion, Diversity/Equity/Inclusion

Upon completion of the program, participants will officially “graduate”



Admissions

Interested directors must apply; district board must agree

Must be currently serving or an associate director

Preference is given to newer serving directors

Classes are limited to 20 participants



Support

OACD PROVIDES

Planning

Financing

Travel

Lodging

Food

OCC & OTHER PARTNERS PROVIDE

Staff

Technical & Equipment Resources

Class Programming

Limited Financial Assistance



Structure

Each class is 2 days – beginning mid-morning day 1, ending by mid-afternoon day 2

Lodging and meal costs are covered by OACD

Travel and time away from home are participants only expenses

Conservation districts with participating directors often cover mileage

All session include a mix of “classroom” time + hands-on activities in the field





Bonus Activities

Additional time is also given during each session to explore and learn solo

- Capitol visit to tour the building and view the chamber in session
- Tour of the Oklahoma History Center
- Visit to the Cherokee Nation Heirloom Garden & Native Plant Site
- Tour of the Chickasaw Cultural Center







Interactions & Contacts

Participating directors have opportunity to meet and interact with a variety of vital contacts for their local conservation district

- Secretary of Ag, Blayne Arthur
- Breakfast with the legislature; hosted by Rep. Carl Newton
- NRCS State Conservationist, Gary O'Neill
- NACD Director of Education, Keith Owen,
  and South Central Region Rep, Wesley Gibson
- Congressman Frank Lucas
- Cherokee Nation
- National Watershed Coalition Executive Director, Dan Sebert
- Chickasaw Nation



Drawbacks

Small program (only 4% of directors in each cohort)

Expensive

Time intensive



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