

Engaging Conservation Districts In Watershed Planning

Utah Department of Agriculture and Food

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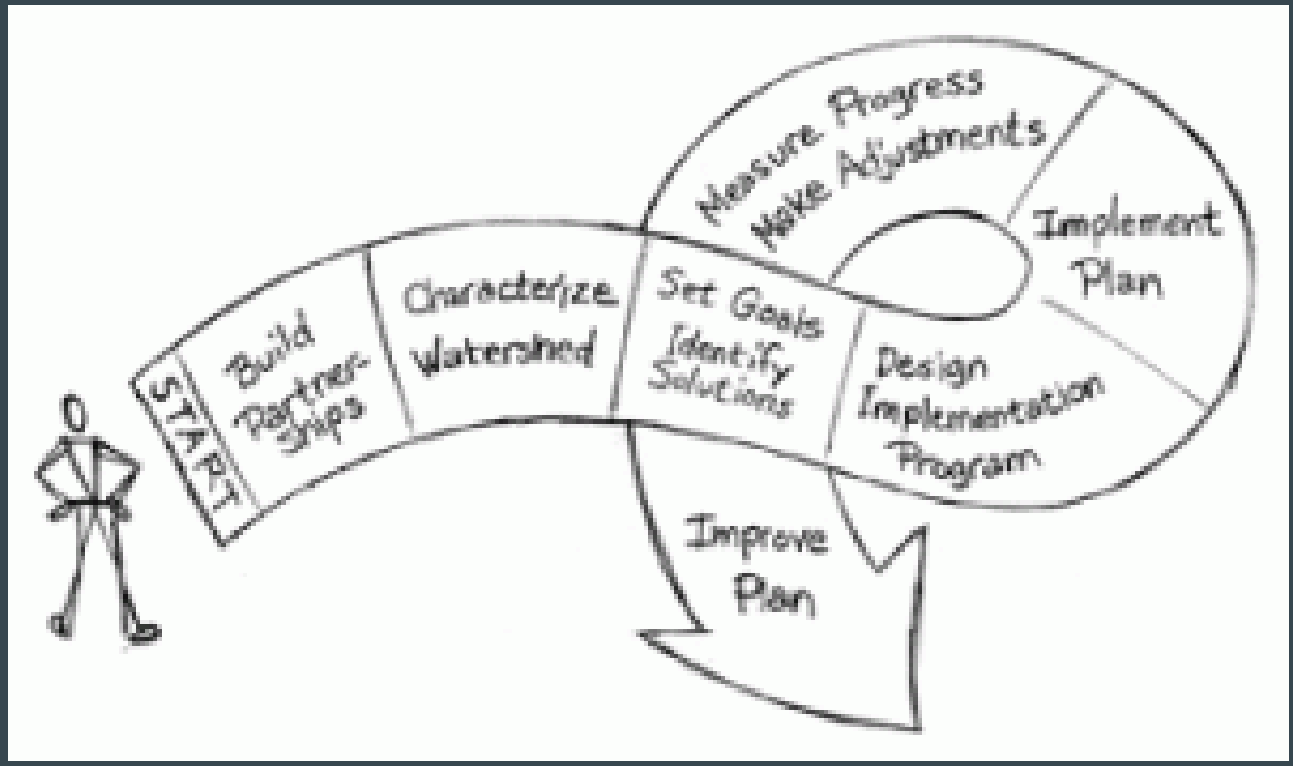
▶Watershed Planning Process

- The watershed planning process works within a framework to identify and quantify specific causes and sources of water quality problems. It also identifies water quality goals and specific actions required to solve water resource challenges.



- Introduction to Watershed Planning – U.S EPA

▶ Goals for Watershed Planning

Access funding and resources	Identify projects for implementation	Build partnerships among stakeholders
Establish goals and objectives	Identify and prioritize areas of concern	Monitor and evaluate improvement

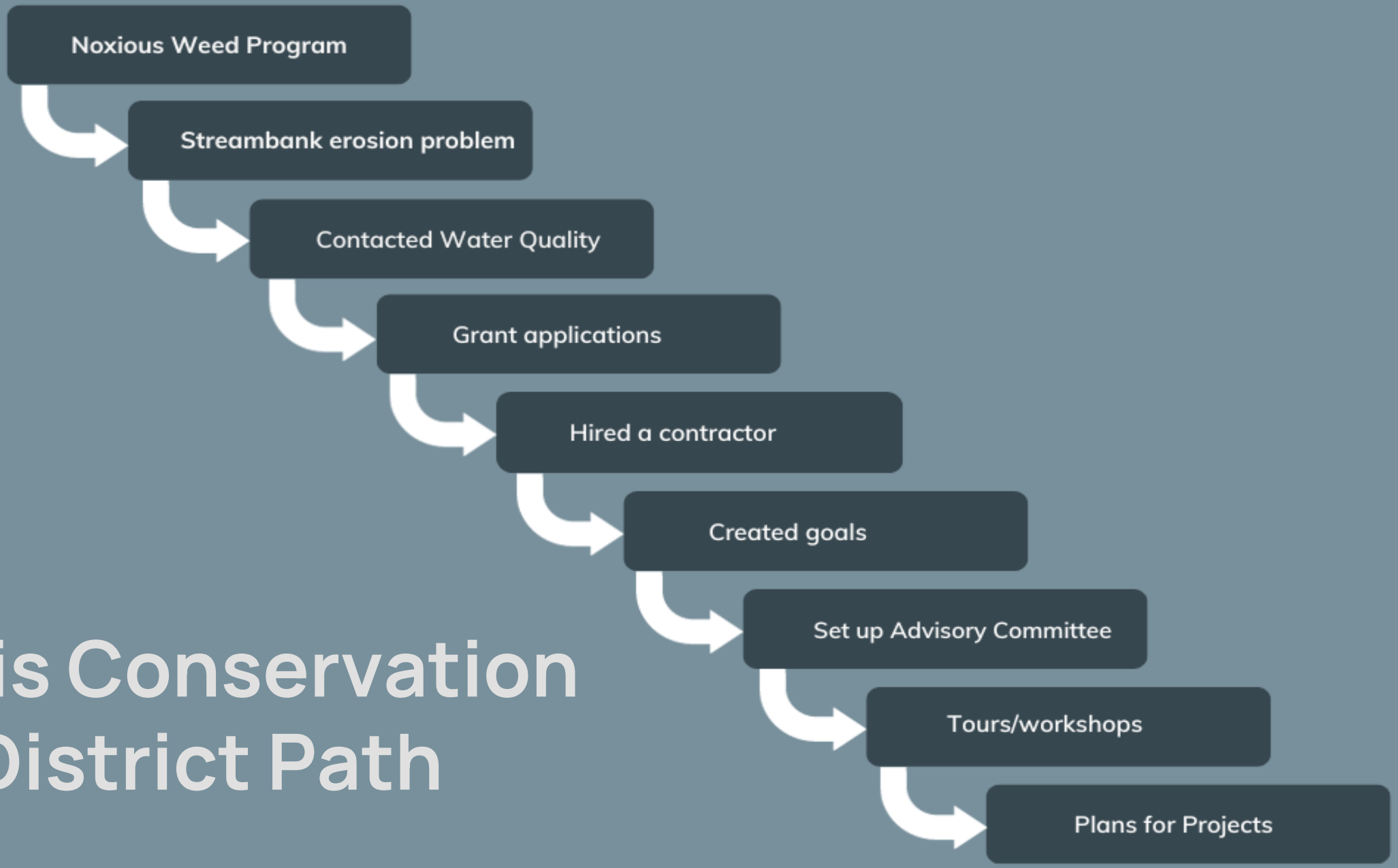
Districts are a key link between the landowners and the state and federal partnering agencies

►The Function of the Conservation District:

To take available technical, financial, and educational resources, whatever their source, and focus or coordinate them so they meet the needs of the local land user for conservation of soil, water and related resources

Adapted from Pete Nowak's "The Conservation District Official: *Villain or Victim?*

▶Davis Conservation District Path



▶Goals

- ➔ Trash
- ➔ Sediment / Erosion
- ➔ Preserve Open Space
- ➔ Adequate Water Supply for Great Salt Lake
- ➔ Remove Invasive Weeds





▸ Success Project Fish Creek





- Installed 70 BDAs on areas with Erosion
- Released Beavers
- Developed Partnerships
- Held workshop (150 attendees)

▶ Watershed Plans Help Conservation Districts

- ➔ Grants
  - ◆ 319
  - ◆ Nonpoint source
- ➔ Developed Partnerships
  - ◆ Health Departments
  - ◆ Stormwater coalition
  - ◆ State and Federal Agencies
  - ◆ More
- ➔ Built Excitement
- ➔ New Projects
  - ◆ Virtual Collars
  - ◆ New landowners

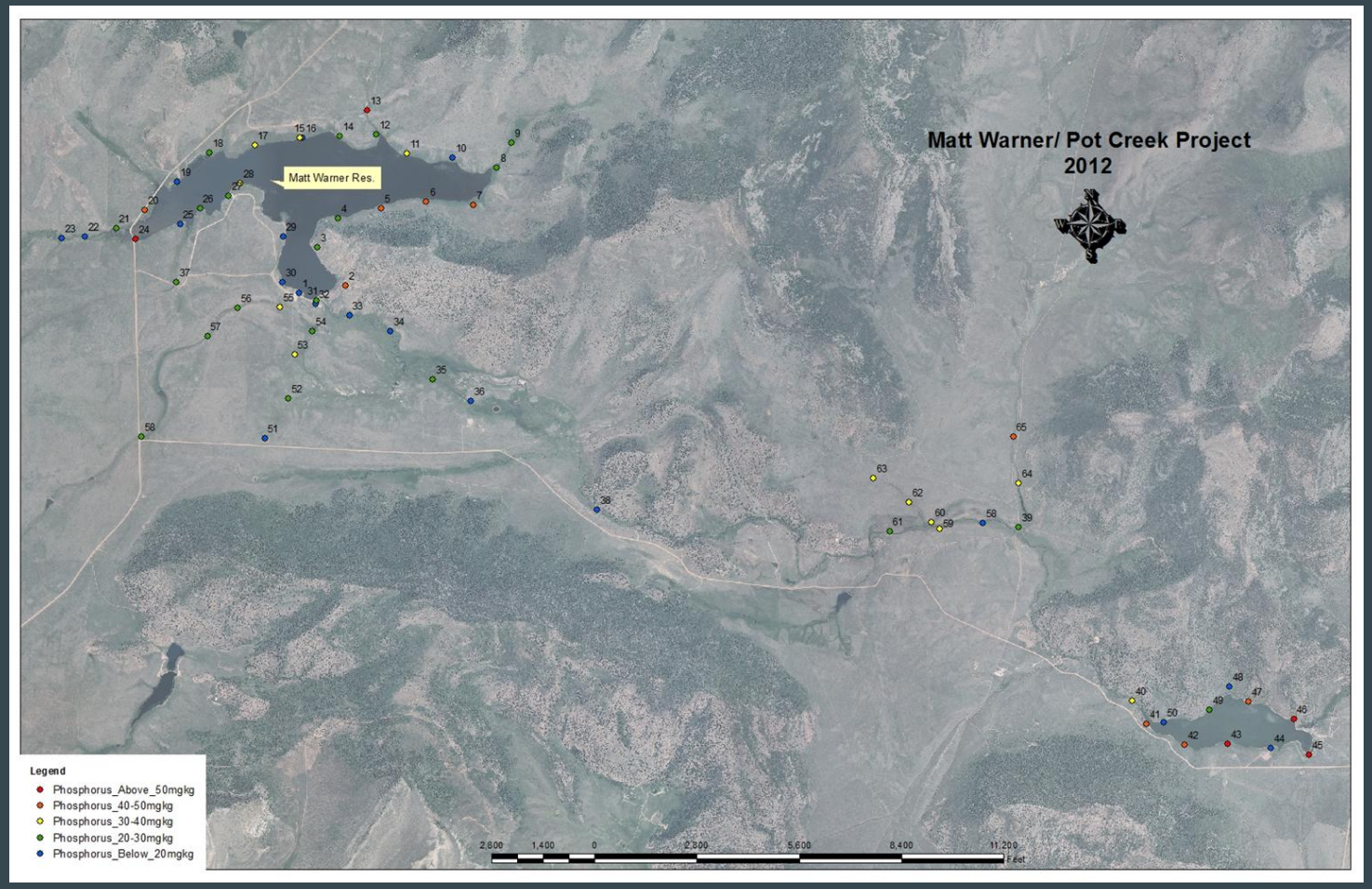






Pot Creek connects two blue ribbon fisheries. Because of high nutrients in the water, they experienced high number of winter fish kills.

▶Matt Warner/Pot Creek Watershed



➔Soil Testing

- ◆ Why the district wanted to get involved

▶Pot Creek Watershed

➔ Uintah Conservation District hosted tours and workshops to inform landowners of the watershed issues



▸Matt Warner/Pot Creek Watershed Projects



Spillway before



Spillway after

▸Matt Warner/Pot Creek Watershed Projects



Before



After

▶Pot Creek Watershed Projects

- ➔ District continues to host tours and workshops in the area.
- ➔ District continues to promote partner programs and resources.
- ➔ District continues to apply for grants to assist in monitoring to measure success.

▶Questions



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