

2011 Highlights

12th National Watershed Conference

More than 160 people from 22 states attended the 12th National Watershed Conference in Oklahoma City, May 15-18, 2011.

Keynote speakers at the conference included Oklahoma Congressman Frank Lucas (photo), Dave White, Natural Resources Conservation Service Chief and Dr. Ed Knipling, USDA Agriculture Research Service Administrator.



During the conference, NWC introduced a new O&M video; a special ceremony was held to recognize the watershed program as a national historic landmark in agricultural engineering by the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers (ASABE); and a rehabilitation training session was held for NRCS employees and contractors.

NWC Water Resources Field Study

In October NWC Chair Kevin Burns was the host for an NWC Water Resources Field Study for key NRCS leaders and senior staff for the White House Rural Council. The Northern Virginia country side and Shenandoah Valley served as the back drop for a look at both rural and urban structural and land treatment approaches to water quantity and quality concerns.



Kevin Burns, NWC Chair (left) and James Gore, NRCS Assistant Chief

Virginia watershed sponsors are doing an amazing job and were on hand to share their important perspective on the benefits of the projects and work seen on the landscape.

White House Rural Council

The field study resulted in a December invitation to address members of the White House Rural Council. Chairman Burns represented the NWC, along with NWC member Clay Pope from the Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts, as well as NWC Executive Director Dan Sebert and NWC member Bruce Julian.

The group shared local sponsor perspectives on the economic and environmental benefits of your watershed program work with council members. The meeting and the message were well received and the opportunity to meet face to face was informative and educational for all.

NWC is looking forward to additional opportunities to share information and show case watershed program project work with the council in coming months.

Addressing Local and State Watershed Program Funding Challenges - A Working Forum

Forty-five participants from 10 states attended this forum in Oklahoma City, December 6-7, 2011, to share information and strategies that advance the opportunity for watershed project sponsors to carry out their responsibilities with adequate financial resources.

“We heard excellent examples of how sponsors are obtaining local funding through a variety of avenues



Bob Hilske, Manager, Nemaha NRD (standing)

to carry out operation and maintenance of dams and to meet their 35% share of rehabilitation projects,” said Dan Sebert, NWC Executive Director.

A report on this workshop will be posted to the NWC website that will include some of the strategies that have been used by states like Texas, Oklahoma, Mississippi and Missouri to obtain local watershed funds.

With Your Support in 2012.....

- You will help keep NWC members informed of Congressional activities that could affect project sponsors by supporting the NWC website, Enews, and direct mail.
- You will help us continue to keep USDA-NRCS informed and educated concerning the technical assistance and program support needs of watershed project sponsors.
- You will allow our work with national leaders for approval of new projects, funding for existing projects and funding for rehabilitation of aging dams to continue.
- You will help NWC work with our partners to find ways to address operation and maintenance concerns across the nation.
- You will help NWC provide individual direct assistance to state watershed coalitions as well as state and local governments.

- You will help NWC continue building partnerships with agencies and organizations that share the same goals and objectives.
- You will help publish educational materials on activities important to project sponsors.
- You will help build leadership capacity and volunteer opportunities for watershed project sponsors through NWC sponsored activities.

To learn more about the National Watershed Coalition, view available NWC publications, and keep current on upcoming events visit our website www.watershedcoalition.org

To receive Watershed E-News, send an email message to nwcdl@sbcglobal.net and type “Subscribe” in the subject box. In the main text box please provide us with your name, address and phone number.

National Watershed Coalition Membership Application Calendar Year 2012 (January 1- December 31)		
First Name	Last Name	
Association / Organization		
Mailing Address		
City	State	Zip
E-Mail Address		
Membership Category () Individual - \$25 (US) () Organization/Association- \$75 (US)		
() Steering Committee \ Board of Directors - \$150 min. (US)		
Make checks for appropriate amount to the National Watershed Coalition and mail to:		
National Watershed Coalition P. O. Box 556 Chandler, OK. 74834		
For Credit Card Billing:		
___ Visa ___ MC ___ Discover ___ A. Express Name on card _____		
CC# _____ Ex. Date _____		
Billing Address for Card _____		

Membership Renewal Form Enclosed



National Watershed Coalition

National Watershed Coalition
P. O. Box 556
Chandler, OK 74834
www.watershedcoalition.org

NWC Officers
Kevin Burns, Chairman
Michael Hebert, Past Chairman
Charles Easterling, Vice-Chairman
Lou Vee Bridges, Secretary Treasurer
Dan Sebert, Executive Director

The National Watershed Coalition is a nonprofit organization composed of national, regional, state, and local organizations, associations and individuals who advocate using watersheds as the planning and implementation unit when dealing with natural resource problems.

January 2012

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P. O. Box 556
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Dear Watershed Friends,

In a year that gave us both record drought and record floods I am sure that you, like me, continue to marvel at the benefits our watershed projects provide. In many areas of my home state of Texas the water in our watershed lakes was critical to the survival of rural communities as well as local farm and ranch operations.



In Oklahoma we saw helicopters fighting wildfires relying on watershed lakes to fill their flying water buckets. In many areas across the country our projects reduced environmental and economic damages from a number of significant flood events. Perhaps experiencing those benefits from your own watershed projects are the reason you are committed to the work of the National Watershed Coalition.

Whatever motivates you to participate in and support the National Watershed Coalition, we thank you!

It is time once again to renew your commitment to watershed work and the goals of the Coalition and the many project sponsors and partners across the country. If you haven't participated in the past, we would welcome you to join us for the coming year.

Your financial support through your annual membership and generous contributions has made a 2011 a most successful year for the NWC during tough economic times.

With your help our service to project sponsors increased and our training expanded.

With your help we were able to provide educational opportunities for watershed project partners through a series of successful, quality state and national meetings. When a government shut down loomed and budget cutting battles raged you helped ensure that Congress preserved the watershed program and funds when other programs died. Through your support you insisted that the core technical capacity of our federal partners be available in the future.

NWC members helped in so many areas. Our educational efforts with Congress and the Administration, and production of several new publications for 2011 would not have been possible without our member support. Our recent working forum on state and local funding for watershed projects would not have been possible without our membership's participation and financial support.

As proud as I am of these accomplishments and the role you and other members play in our Coalition's success...serious challenges remain. Threats to federal funding, unfinished watershed projects and plans, local economies, and at-risk lives, property and natural resources, are all serious challenges.

The NWC has shown that success is possible, even in tough times. Please join us or renew your commitment today.

Sincerely,
Kevin Burns, NWC Chair
Wise County, Texas