

From: john.keith@oacd.org
To: john.keith@oacd.org
Subject: IMPORTANT: Requesting your input for the OACD November Meeting with a five minute survey
Date: Tuesday, September 4, 2018 1:48:10 PM
Attachments: [OACD Structure and Framework Assessment Survey_09_04_18v2.pdf](#)

DMs and Board Members,

As a means to guide the discussion of The Oregon Association of Conservation Districts (OACD) structure and framework at the Strategic Planning Meeting this November, OACD is soliciting input from Districts surround the best options to facilitate communication between districts and provide a conduit to OACD to represent your interests.

The survey should only take five minutes and can be accessed vis this link:

[Click Here to Access Survey](#)

We are requesting response from any and all DMs and/or Board members, as well as interested SWCD staff, by October 15, 2018. But I would encourage everyone to take it now so you don't forget or have to spend time searching for this email. A hard copy of the survey to facilitate group discussions at your September board meetings is also attached for your use and reference.

As we hope you have noticed, over the past two years OACD has been making strides in assessing the organization's effectiveness in serving the needs of every soil and water conservation district in Oregon in enhancing communication via conference calls and email communications, updating the By-Laws, completion of the OACD Strategic Plan, reviving the November Meeting, and election of new officers. However, these strides fall short in their accomplishment if they do not lead to the emergence of a new OACD the sustainably represents and adds value to Districts. So this is a good time to check back with the membership and take a pulse check.

The OACD Board strongly believes the ability to connect to its grass roots – the individual Directors and Staff that run and operate each District – is vital. We are aware that the original strengths of our current basin structure have waned over the years. The reasons for this are many, but it is the outcome that we are concerned about – Districts no longer have a consistent and known pathway to have their needs aired and addressed. As such, we must identify the pros and cons of our current basin structure and communication process. The end goal must be to:

- ✓ Add value to Districts, both statewide and regionally
- ✓ Earn increased commitment from Districts
- ✓ Decrease time spent in travel and the overall communication effort needed to be engaged
- ✓ Improve efficiency and promote positive action all affected Districts that share a common concern
- ✓ Ensure that time spent by Districts talking to other Districts primarily relates to natural resource opportunities that are shared among Districts
- ✓ Districts feel the time is well spent, adds value to their existences and motivates Districts to take leadership positions in OACD's structure and that their experience leads to individual

growth and satisfaction, which leads to continued and increased grass roots participation in OACD.

Thank you in advance in providing important input to making your association strong and more responsive. If you run into problems with the link or survey, or just have some questions, please feel free to give me a call or send an email.

John Keith
Executive Director
Oregon Association of Conservation Districts
503-706-8450

Over the past two years, the Oregon Association of Conservation Districts (OACD) has been making strides in assessing the organization's effectiveness in serving the needs of every soil and water conservation district (District) in Oregon in enhancing communication via conference calls and email communications, updating the By-Laws, completion of the OACD Strategic Plan, reviving the November meeting, and election of new officers.

However, these strides fall short in their accomplishment if they do not lead to the emergence of a new OACD sustainably represents and adds value to Districts. Key to this is OACD's ability to connect to its grass roots – the individual Directors and Staff that run and operate each District. We are aware that the original strengths of our current basin structure have waned over the years. The reasons for this are many, but it is the outcome that we are concerned about – Districts no longer have a consistent and known pathway to have their needs aired and addressed. As such, we must identify the pros and cons of our current basin structure and communication process. The end goal must be to:

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- Districts feel the time is well spent, adds value to their existences and motivates Districts to take leadership positions in OACD's structure and that their experience leads to individual growth and satisfaction, which leads to continued and increased grass roots participation in OACD.

As a means to guide the discussion on OACD structure and framework at the Fall Strategic Planning Meeting this November, OACD is soliciting input from Districts by asking the questions below.

1. From your perspective, what has been the benefit(s) that your district has received from OACD in the past two years? Please select all that apply.

- Promoting positive action with stakeholders and partners
- Enhancing public education and awareness building
- Resolving SWCD issues and concerns
- Fostering communications, collaboration, and cooperation
- Advocating for SWCD
- Our district hasn't received any benefits from SWCD in the past two years
- Other (please specify)

2. What motivates your district to work with other districts on problems or opportunities that you have in common? Please select all that apply.

- Improved efficiency
- Learn of new or best practices
- Sharing of resources or staff
- Coordinate/collaborate on projects or planning efforts
- Relationship building
- Communication
- Our district doesn't work with other districts on problems or opportunities
- Other (please specify)

3. Please rank the following mechanisms in terms of their value for helping your district collaborate and/or communicate with other districts and partners. Rank your top choice as "1" and your second choice as a "2" and so on.

<input type="text"/>	Monthly conference calls
<input type="text"/>	Periodic news emails or newsletters
<input type="text"/>	Basin meetings
<input type="text"/>	Issue specific meetings/conference calls (e.g., Sage Grouse, Juniper, Ag Heritage, etc.)
<input type="text"/>	Annual Meetings
<input type="text"/>	Policy Resolutions
<input type="text"/>	Surveys and requests for input into issues and/or legislation

4. How well does OACD's current basin structure meet your District's needs? A 0 means "not at all," and 100 means "extremely well."

0 100

5. How well does OACD's current Board structure meet your District's needs? A 0 means "not at all," and 100 means "extremely well."

0 100

6. In your opinion, how relevant is the current basin structure to effectively enable communication between Districts and input to OACD?

- Very well
- Moderately well
- Not well
- Other (please specify)

7. What other ways would you prefer to enable Districts to communicate between themselves and provide input to OACD? Check all that apply.

- As-needed resource issue resolution teams (e.g., juniper, sage grouse, ag heritage, etc.)
- Standing resource issue committees (e.g., juniper, sage grouse, ag heritage, etc.)
- Self-directed Communities of Practice
- Facilitated and initiated interaction by OACD on an as needed basis
- Redraw basin boundaries (e.g. resource issues - riparian, upland, wildlife habitat, etc. within similar drainages.)
- Ad Hoc: Districts self direct collaboration and interaction
- None of the above
- Other (please specify)

8. Do you have any other comments, questions, or concerns about how OACD can serve your district more effectively?

9. From what perspective are you responding to this survey?

- Individual SWCD District Manager or Executive Director
- Individual SWCD Board Member at your district
- SWCD Staff
- Other (please specify)