

Highlights by
Clare Lindahl,
CDI Executive
Director



Staying relevant and engaged theme throughout meeting

*Sustainability out –
regeneration in!*

Indiana farmer and
Commissioner Ray
McCormick asks,
“What if I told my wife
our marriage was
sustainable?”

Lindahl ponders,
“Who would ever
strive to break even?”

Delaware farmers
says, “Don’t live off
the principal, gain
interest, feed the
bank!”

NRCS Resource Stewardship Initiative (RSI)...

- inspires change among farmers
- creates efficiencies in conservation planning
- quantifies results beyond dollars spent

NACD leadership says, there are those who want do away with local leadership to fill our shoes.

Jason Weller and Forest Service Chief Thomas Tidwell.

NACD CEO, Jeremy Peters stated that he was worried about those that don’t engage stating, “We have to build stronger connections. We have to reach out to each other more. It gives me hope for conservation every time the phone rings. The opportunities to engage are abundant.”

Ron Nichols, NRCS Soil Health Communications Coordinator, encourages us not to be afraid to use emotion and passion when communicating about conservation.

Districts must get innovative to be successful. Keynote speaker, Michael Tchong encourages brevity.

*9B talks Farm Bill –
past, present,
future!*

*Lindahl will use
information to
prepare for Spring
Fly-In to
Washington D.C.!*

*Soil Health Institute
hopes to be what
NASA is to space.*

Noble Foundation
President & CEO , Bill
Buckner quotes Da
Vinci, “We know more
about the movement of
celestial bodies than
about the soil
underfoot.”

soilhealthinstitute.org



Delaware’s Soil
Tunnel takes
people
underground at
public events.



Ohio’s trailer seeks to reach
Generation I.



Multigenerational,
Multidisciplinary staff
leads to WOW factor
outreach in South
Carolina’s urban areas.

*National Geographic Photographer, Jim Richardson, takes
attendees on a tour of world’s agriculture with beautiful images*



Minnesota's Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program completes pilot, scales up state wide

-Voluntary

-Locally implemented

-Districts recruit and assist farmers in applying, assessing, implementing and verifying

-Verified farmers who implement & maintain practices obtain regulatory certainty from state for 10 years

-Program focus is water quality improvement

-Pilot accomplishments: 80 farms - 46,168 acres certified - 199 new conservation practices

-State wide scale up includes hiring of regional staff and support for Districts with funding from NRCS through RCPP

Soil Health is trending – but no trend!

- Keynote speaker, Michael Tchong talks about knowing your ubertrends and how they change values in population. Learn more at michaeltchong.com
- Speakers discuss how retail is driving trends.
- Soil health has captivated Ag Media.
- Farmer reports having more pictures on phone of soil than kids.
- Iowa Sociologist, J. Arbuckle's survey results show farmers recognize soil health, are taking action. The proof is in the numbers.
- Farmer states, "My neighbors think I am crazy ." Lindahl is reminded of the quote, "Being positive in a negative situation is not naive , it's leadership" and the fact Hugh Hammond Bennett was viewed as an outcast.
- Research important but implementation can't wait! Ron Nichols, NRCS Soil Health Communications Coordinator, states, "If the Wright Brothers would have waited for all the research on Aeronautics to be done, they would still be on the ground at Kitty Hawk!"
- The farmers who are trying soil health practices are courageous! They are the ones solving the problem.
- Aldo Leopold stated, "The art of land doctoring is being practiced with vigor, but the science of land health is yet to be born."

Until now with soil health!



Connecting becomes reconnecting for Lindahl

Taking part in NACD events has allowed me to build relationships! Now when I see people, we are not connecting but reconnecting, allowing for much deeper, fuller conversations about the challenges and opportunities we all face as a conservation family.

In Reno, I got to reconnect with commissioners, leaders, staff and my fellow Executive Directors!



NACD CEO Jeremy Peters is passionate about our cause and is working hard for us and conservation!

Thank you for affording me the opportunity to attend!

Clare Lindahl



CDI President Bob Lynch represented Iowa in the parade of states at meeting kick off



Iowa recognized for being top 10 contributing state, giving NACD over \$44,000 in support this year



CDI President Bob Lynch and CDI Vice President Alex Schmidt represent Iowa at many meetings



Auction breaks record, over \$80,000 raised, Iowa's Tim Palmer acknowledged as Auction Chair



Commissioners Cliff Bowie & Don Elsbernd in attendance, recruited relentlessly by Lindahl to join CDI Board, Elsbernd acknowledged for being a Soil Health Champion



State Con Kurt Simon attends, public affairs officer Laura Crowell speaks about reaching woman landowners



Wayne Peterson touts Iowa's urban conservation, NRCS announces urban support



Friend of CDI, Agri Drain supports and displays at meeting



Friend of CDI, Bruce Barnhardt represents LICA at the meeting



Chrissy Rhodes recruits new members to the Soil and Water Conservation Society



Iowa's NACD North Central Regional representative Beth Mason hard at work



Boone Co. youth Jackson Smith wins 3rd place in Conservation Poster Contest, Grades 7-9