

## Evaluation of Soil Conservation Commission Structure For Seven States

The IASCD looked at several states to see how their Soil Conservation Commissions were structured, their number of members, how members were selected, etc. The following states were evaluated:

Colorado	Ohio
Delaware	Washington
Kansas	Wyoming
New Mexico	

### Colorado

Colorado has a State Conservation Board consisting of 9 members:

- 1 at large member appointed by the Governor
- 8 elected members from designated watershed areas; must be an elected supervisor to be elected by conservation districts within these watersheds
- All member terms are for 3 years

### Delaware

Delaware does not have a Commission. Districts report to and are directly controlled by their Department of Natural Resources.

### Kansas

The Kansas Commission consists of 9 members:

- 2 ex-officio members
  - Director, Cooperative Extension Service
  - Director, State Agricultural Experiment Station
- 1 member appointed by the Secretary of USDA
- 1 member appointed by the Secretary of the Kansas Dept. of Agriculture
- 5 members elected by the conservation districts from their five separate areas
  - Elected to a two year term
  - Areas II & IV elected on odd numbered years
  - Areas I, II & V elected on even numbered years
- Vacancies of unexpired terms are filled by appointment by the Commission

*- equivalent to  
Division  
(see Assoc.  
slide)*

### Ohio

Ohio has a Commission consisting of 7 members having equal status and authority:

- 4 appointed by the Governor with advice and consent of the Senate (2 shall be farmers & no more than 2 from the same political party)
- 1 designated by resolution of the Board of Directors of the Ohio Federation of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (4 yr. term)
- Director of Agriculture
- V.P. for Agricultural Administration of OSU

## New Mexico

New Mexico has a Soil and Water Conservation Commission composed of 12 members:

- 5 ex-officio members
  - The Governor or his designee
  - Associate Director of the Coop. Extension Service
  - Associate Director of the Agricultural Experiment Station
  - NRCS State Conservationist
  - President of New Mexico's State Association
- 7 appointed members, selected and appointed by the Governor
  - 6 shall be district supervisors selected and appointed from a panel of 3 candidates from each region, compiled by the districts of each region and presented to the Governor by the President of the New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts
  - 1 selected at large (active in conservation and development of natural resources)

## Washington

Washington's Commission consists of 10 members:

- 5 ex-officio members
  - Director of the Dept. of Ecology
  - Director of the Dept. of Agriculture
  - Commissioner of Public lands
  - President of the Washington Association of Conservation Districts
  - Dean of the College of Agriculture at WSU
- 2 appointed members (Governor)
  - 1 shall be a landowner or operator of a farm
  - Serve a 4 year term
- 3 elected members
  - 1 elected each year by district supervisors at their annual State-wide meeting and must represent eastern, central and western Washington
  - Serve a 3 year term

## Wyoming

Wyoming has a State Board of Agriculture rather than a Commission. The Board of Agriculture consists of 13 members and manages a wide variety of agricultural issues:

- 2 ex-officio members
  - Governor
  - Dean of the UW College of Agriculture or his designee
- 11 appointed members
  - Appointed by the Governor with advice and consent of the Senate
  - Governor may remove members as per State Code
  - 1 member appointed from each of the 7 appointment districts (each appointment district shall be rotated among the several counties comprising the district)
  - Appointed members serve a 6 year term