

Roundtable Topic Questions for the SWCD Conservation Easement Workshops

Following is a list of questions that were posed at the 2010 conservation easement workshops.

- Is your district working with the county to establish a countywide farmland protection plan or another type of land use planning? Does or will the plan target areas of the county for conservation easements?
- Talk about any working relationship you have with the land trust that covers your district. Does your district below to or work with any other state or national land preservation organizations?
- What kinds of easements is your district holding or considering holding in the future? Do you have a priority system in place for accepting easements?
- How is your district handling the need for attorney services? Have you considered an MOU with the county for use of the county attorney and support for any enforcement issues?
- Holding easements also means yearly monitoring and enforcement if easement violations are discovered. Has your district considered limiting the number of easements held or acreage under easement based on current staffing levels?
- Do you have anything in place to educate new supervisors regarding your easement program? What are your thoughts on continuing staffing education? Has your district identified any organizations offering technical training in this arena?
- Holding an easement requires your district to maintain a hardcopy and electronic copy of all files. What is your district's record keeping policy?
- Does your district have a general landowner packet prepared explaining the easement process? What will your district do when you have landowner turnover?
- How does your district plan to manage endowment / long term monitoring funds so that funds are available in the future for any enforcement action?
- How are or will your district market its District Easement Program to the public?
- What is your district process for baseline documentation reporting? Are you using outside sources or doing it in house?
- What is your district's annual easement monitoring program process?
- What is your district's process for accepting an easement? In the beginning, did the board pass a resolution and did the board communicate the new program with the County Manager or County Commissioners?
- What are your district's plans for facilitating good relations with funding partners? Consider trust funds, state and federal agencies, political relations, and non-profit groups.