

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development**Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)****Grant Recipient: Alaska Association of Conservation****Federal Tax ID: 92-0161947****Districts****Project Title:****Project Type: Other**

Alaska Association of Conservation Districts - Statewide Soil and Water Conservation Program Development and Management

State Funding Requested: \$1,200,000**House District: Statewide (1-40)**

Future Funding May Be Requested

Brief Project Description:

Provide the technical guidance and assistance to carry out the measures for soil and water conservation and erosion control.

Funding Plan:

Total Project Cost:	\$5,200,000
Funding Already Secured:	(\$4,000,000)
FY2014 State Funding Request:	<u>(\$1,200,000)</u>
Project Deficit:	\$0

Funding Details:

FY 2008 - \$750,000

FY 2009 - \$350,000

FY 2010 - 0

FY 2011 - \$300,000

FY 2012 - \$500,000

FY 2013 - \$1,000,000.00

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD) serve an important role in our state by assisting landowners with natural resource management. Across the state, SWCDs help landowners develop their land responsibly, while taking into consideration such issues as air quality, soil degradation and erosion, water quality, and forestry management. Thousands of personal contacts with landowners are made each year in districts around the state. Local districts work with numerous agencies, organizations, local government, and private citizens to deliver our programs.

Other key programs include conservation planning, nutrient management, technical assistance for invasive plant management, land capability surveys, technical and land management assistance to farmers, stream restoration and removal of fish migration barriers, forestry management plans, construction of rain gardens, development of community gardens and farmers markets, schoolyard gardens, and promotion of Alaska Grown products. Districts also provide Youth Conservation Corps programs and resource education to local schools. Districts conduct land capability surveys and investigations of potential agricultural areas and soil conservation and erosion control. Districts work to improve, and

maintain soil erosion control and construct conservation structures. Working cooperatively within the community helps the district to be well informed and provide services that are useful and timely.

This request will provide funding for activities not directly related to projects funded by grants or contracts. In addition to enabling SWCDs to address their core mission--assisting property owners and managers in production of renewable resources using sustainable management principles--these funds can be used as "match" for many grants.

Districts provide an annual report to the Natural Resources Conservation Development Board, who advise the Governor and the Commissioner of DNR, and the Alaska State Legislature. All reports are distributed by the 30th day of the legislative session.

The Alaska Association of Conservation Districts has leveraged thousands of dollars for natural resource projects from federal and local sources, but cannot deliver these projects statewide unless we have funding for base operations..

Our work is supported by community leaders, local residents, village councils, and agencies with whom we work.

Project Timeline:

FY 2014 Projects will start upon receipt of funding.

Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:

Alaska Association of Conservation Districts

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

Name: Daleann Pond
Title: Chief Administrative Officer
Address: 1700 E. Bogard Road Suite 203A
Wasilla, Alaska 99654
Phone Number: (907)373-7923
Email: aacd@mtaonline.net

Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? ☒ Yes ☐ No



November 22, 2011

Steve Hicks, Executive Director, AACD
1700 E. Bogard Rd., Suite 203
Wassila, AK 99654

Dear Mr. Hicks,

Please accept the support of The Kuskokwim Corporation in advocating for the continuation of funding for The Natural Resource Conservation Service and Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

We are aware of the significant impact of the current protracted financial downturn across the nation and Alaska, and it is of grave concern to us to see the possible erosion of services from NRCS and SWCD. Both agencies have an effective record in assisting in the development, conservation and enhancement of Alaska's rich natural resources, which ultimately create employment and business opportunities for all Alaskans. There is much work still left undone, including the following projects:

- Forest stand assessments – to work with landowners to determine species type, age, composition, quality and approximate lumber yield per acres, and provide information to landowners to utilize renewable resources and create jobs in rural Alaska.
- High Tunnel Demonstration Project – utilizes a 20x40 ft. high tunnel structure to grow vegetables for local food production, and extend the growing season.
- Wood Bison Restoration Project – reintroduce bison to Yukon-Kuskokwim regions to create an alternate red meat source for rural residents.
- Riverbank Erosion Surveys – assist private and government agencies in determining the rate and potential effects of erosion along Alaska's rivers, and document erosion that affects aircraft runway operations, as well as graveyards and other historical sites.
- Assisting Gardeners in Applying Conservation Practices – ongoing process of increasing agricultural production for gardeners in mid-Yukon-Kuskokwim region to offset the high cost of importing vegetables by growing local produce.
- Invasive Plant Eradication – prevent the spread of invasive, noxious, non-indigenous weeds/plants proven to be harmful to local environments, animals, and humans.

Thank you for your continued efforts, and for supporting conservation programs of TKC villages along the middle and upper Kuskokwim River.

Sincerely,

Maver Carey
TKC President/CEO

KUSPUK SCHOOL DISTRICT

P.O. Box 49
Aniak, Alaska 99557
(907) 675-4250
Fax (907) 675-4305

Brad Allen
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
(907) 675-4250, Ext. # ~~100~~ 222

Steve Hicks
Executive Director – AACD
1700 E. Bogard Road, Suite 203
Wasilla, AK 99654

Mr. Hicks,


Please consider this a letter of support from the Kuspuk School District for the Mid-Yukon-Kuskokwim Soil and Water Conservation District (MYK-SWCD).

The MYK-SWCD has worked with the school district in this region on several items to help bring relevant and experiential educational activities to the students of our district. They have worked with our students and the citizens of this region to help advocate for the responsible development of natural resources – showing how they can help create employment opportunities as well as working to ensure the environmental development is well thought out.

We know that they also have worked on other projects that have impacts outside of the school house walls – such as forest assessments and surveys, the Wood Bison restoration project, riverbank erosion analysis, high tunnel project for possibly extending the local growing season and options to more locally produced food, conservation practices for local gardeners and helping to eradicate invasive plant species.

We realize that these are trying times in terms of the financial issues that face many agencies across the state and nation. But we feel that MYK-SWCD has helped to move the people of this region forward in the area of environmental awareness. If you have any questions or should need more information, please feel free to contact me at the above listed information or via email at ballen@kuspuk.org.

Respectfully,



Brad Allen
Superintendent – Kuspuk School District

City of Chuathbaluk
1001 Community Rd.
Chuathbaluk, AK 99557
Ph. (907) 467-4115 Fax (907) 467-4180

Steve Hicks, Executive Director, AACD
1700 E. Bogard Rd, Suite 203
Wassila, AK 99654

Mr. Hicks,

We are all aware of in these times of financial uncertainty, efforts to stabilize the economic situation often results in cuts to government funding for agencies such as the Natural Resource Conservation Service and Soil and Water Conservation Districts, agencies that have been here to assist in the development, conservation and enhancement of our natural resources for decades. Alaska is rich in natural resources. The Mid Yukon Kuskokwim Soil and Water Conservation Districts, (MYS-SWCD) works cooperatively with NRCS in accomplishing the following deliverables, to assist in the responsible development of those natural resources. These resources can be used in creating employment and business opportunities for our citizens and lessen of financial uncertainty.

-Forest Stand Assessments:

We are in the process of doing surveys for the landowners, to determine species type, age composition, quality and approximate lumber yield per acre. This information provides data for landowners who are interested in utilizing renewable natural resources to create jobs in rural Alaska. Added benefits are building material for new and existing homeowners; value added products and biomass for possible renewal energy production.

-High Tunnel Demonstration Project

Working with NRCS, MYK-SWCD constructing a 20X40 ft high tunnel to demonstrate the effectiveness of utilizing such a structure to extend the growing season, and grow more and different kind of vegetables for local food production.

-Wood Bison Restoration Project

The Mid Yukon Kuskokwim Soil and Water Conservation District is involved in supporting the efforts of the State of Alaska Wildlife Conservation Division, to reintroduce bison into the region. If successful, the reintroduction of bison will be an important source of alternate red meat for local residents. Efforts are under way to possibly reuse the fencing for the bison after they are released, for reindeer, musk ox, or other ungulates.

-Riverbank Erosion Surveys

MYK SWCD is in the process of compiling riverbank erosion surveys, to assist private and government agencies in determining the rate and potential effects of erosion along the rivers. We are in the initial stages of documenting erosion that could affect runway operations in one community and historical sites such as graveyards in another community.

-Assisting Gardeners in Applying Conservation Practices

MYK SWCD is also involved in the ongoing process of increasing agricultural production for gardeners in the Mid Yukon-Kuskokwim region, by encouraging gardeners to incorporate conservation practices such as crop rotation, pest management, nutrient management, irrigation practices, etc. Incorporation of such practices offsets the high cost of purchasing imported vegetables by growing local produce to put food on the table, and store for the winter.

-Invasive Plant Eradication

MYK SWCD has worked with invasive Plant Coordinator in noxious weed eradication, to prevent the spread of invasive plants that are not naturally grown in this region and may be harmful to plants, humans, animals and the local environment. Getting rid of the plants before they spread is important in controlling the problem before it becomes unmanageable.

MYK SWCD is working to create jobs and benefits our state through the application of the above mentioned, and other conservation practices that develop, conserve and enhance Alaska's abundant natural resources and lessen the financial uncertainty of these trying economic times.

Thank you for the services SWCD's and NRCS in Alaska provide. Please let our elected representatives know that we appreciate their consideration in continuing funding for SWCD's and NRCS.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jerry Petusa".

11/14/11

Dear Cooperator,

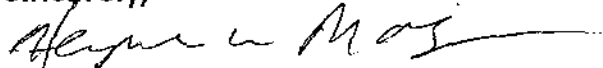
The Mid Yukon Kuskokwim is once again asking for your support in our efforts to continue providing services to the residents of the Mid Yukon Kuskokwim Soil and Water Conservation District.

If you can find it in your heart to please sign and send the enclosed letter to the Alaska Association of Conservation Districts, it would be greatly appreciated.

If you prefer, you can also write a shorter letter of support, or use the enclosed letter.

Thank you very much, again, for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



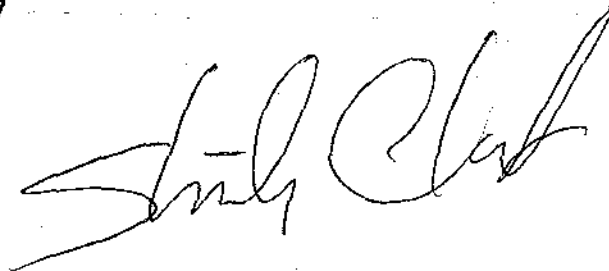
Herman W. Morgan

District Manager / Coordinator -

MYK-SWCD

P.O. Box; 88

Aniak, AK. 99557



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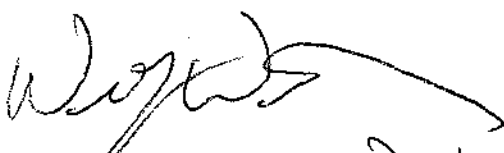
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William J. Wilson

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Sincerely,

Agnes Overton

P.O. Box 81

ANAK AK 99557

Steve Hicks, Executive Director
AACD,

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Sincerely,

Dynis Hoffman
P.O. Box 35
Aniak, AK
99551

Steve Hicks, Executive Director, AACD
1700 E. Bogard Rd, suite 203
Wassila, AK. 99654

Mr. Hicks,

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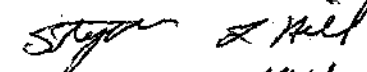
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Stephen L. Hill
Board Member / MYK-SWCD

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MYK SWCD is in the process of compiling riverbank erosion surveys, to assist private and government agencies in determining the rate and potential effects of erosion along the rivers. We are in the initial stages of documenting erosion that could affect runway operations in one community and historical sites such as graveyards in another community.

- Assisting Gardeners in Applying Conservation Practices

MYK SWCD is also involved in the ongoing process of increasing agricultural production for gardeners in the Mid Yukon - Kuskokwim region, by encouraging gardeners to incorporate conservation practices such as crop rotation, pest management, nutrient management, irrigation practices, etc. Incorporation of such practices offsets the high cost of purchasing imported vegetables by growing local produce to put food on the table, and to store for the winter.

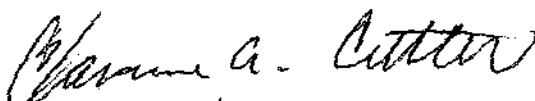
- Invasive Plant Eradication

MYK SWCD has worked with Invasive Plant Coordinator in noxious weed eradication, to prevent the spread of invasive plants that are not naturally grown in this region and may be harmful to plants, humans, animals and the local environment. Getting rid of the plants before they spread is important in controlling the problem before it becomes unmanageable.

MYK SWCD is working to create jobs and benefits our state through the application of the above mentioned, and other conservation practices that develop, conserve and enhance Alaska's abundant natural resources and lessen the financial uncertainty of these trying economic times.

Thank you for the services SWCDs and NRCS in Alaska provide. Please let our elected representatives know that we appreciate their consideration in continuing funding for SWCDs and NRCS.

Sincerely,


ANIAK, AK.

Steve Hicks, Executive Director
AACD,

We are all aware of in these times of financial uncertainty, efforts to stabilize the economic situation often results in cuts to government funding for agencies such as the Natural Resource Conservation Service and Soil and Water Conservation Districts, agencies that have been here to assist in the development, conservation and enhancement of our natural resources for decades. Alaska is rich in natural resources. The Mid Yukon Kuskokwim Soil and Water Conservation District, (MYK-SWCD) works cooperatively with NRCS in accomplishing the following deliverables, to assist in the responsible development of those natural resources. These resources can be used in creating employment and business opportunities for our citizens and lessen the impact of financial uncertainty.

- Forest Stand Assessments:

We are in the process of doing surveys for landowners, to determine species type, age composition, quality and approximate lumber yield per acre. This information provides data for landowners who are interested in utilizing renewable natural resources to create jobs in rural Alaska. Added benefits are building material for new and existing homeowners; value added products and biomass for possible renewal energy production.

- High Tunnel Demonstration Project

Working with NRCS, MYK-SWCD constructed a 20X40 ft high tunnel to demonstrate the effectiveness of utilizing such a structure to extend the growing season, and grow more and different kind of vegetables for local food production.

- Wood Bison Restoration Project

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Thank you for your time and consideration in continuing funding for SWCDs and NRCS.

Sincerely,

Lane and Agnes Fausser
PO 313 Aniak AK 99557

11/21/11

11/14/11

Dear Cooperator,

The Mid Yukon Kuskokwim is once again asking for your support in our efforts to continue providing services to the residents of the Mid Yukon Kuskokwim Soil and Water Conservation District.

If you can find it in your heart to please sign and send the enclosed letter to the Alaska Association of Conservation Districts, it would be greatly appreciated.

If you prefer, you can also write a shorter letter of support, or use the enclosed letter.

Thank you very much, again, for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Herman W. Morgan

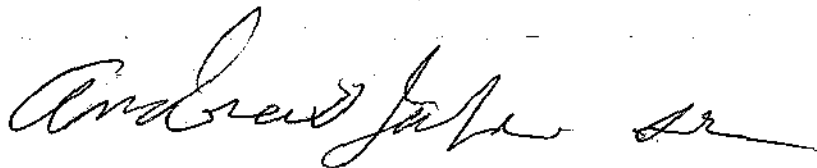
District Manager / Coordinator

MYK-SWCD

P.O. Box; 88

Aniak, AK. 99557

ph; (907) 676 0336



Steve Hicks, Executive Director
AACD,

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Thank you for your time and consideration in continuing funding for SWCDs and NRCS.
Sincerely,



Alaska Association of Conservation Districts

CONSERVATION • DEVELOPMENT • SELF – GOVERNMENT

History of Soil and Water Conservation Districts

Alaska's soil and water conservation districts formed after the Territory of Alaska enacted legislation in 1947 that allowed the formation of districts. Districts are legal subdivisions of the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, authorized under Alaska State Statute Chapter 41.10, Soil and Water Conservation Law.

By the late 1940s, all states had adopted laws reflecting the Standard State Soil Conservation District Law, promoted by President Franklin D. Roosevelt. This was in response to the Dust Bowl Days, and was designed to be a grassroots complement to the Soil Conservation Service (now USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service), which was begun in 1935.

The conservation district concept was developed to voluntarily enlist the cooperation of landowners and users of natural resources in carrying out the program authorized by the Soil Conservation Act of 1935.

Alaska's SWCDs

Alaska's Soil and Water Conservation Districts were established as groups of local farmers and landowners united to form SWCDs in their respective areas. There are 11 state-formed SWCDs in Alaska: Anchorage, Fairbanks, Homer, Kenai, Kenny Lake, Kodiak, Mid-Yukon Kuskokwim, Palmer, Salcha-Delta, Upper Susitna, and Wasilla. Currently, efforts are underway to establish a new SWCD in the Southeast. In 2005, the Tyonek Tribal District became the first Native Conservation District formed in Alaska under federal jurisdiction. More recently, three additional Native Conservation Districts have been formed.

AACD's origins

The Alaska Association of Conservation Districts was organized in 1965 to help the 12 state-formed SWCDs in Alaska do cooperatively what they could not do independently. In 1998, the AACD incorporated with 501c3 status. Its work includes administering programs that encompass multiple districts and seeking and administering grant funding. The AACD is also the statewide voice on conservation issues pertaining to and requiring federal, state and local legislative and agency support. AACD provides conferences, training, education, and outreach programs collectively for the districts.

SWCDs' work

District staffs work with landowners, land managers, local government agencies and other special interest groups in addressing a broad spectrum of resources concerns: erosion control, flood prevention, water conservation and use, wetlands, groundwater, water quality and quantity, non-point source pollution and community development. District activities and interaction with private landowners is voluntary, not regulatory. Districts work with government agencies to provide technical guidance and resource management assistance. The work of the SWCD staff aligns closely to that of our federal funding partner, the Natural Resources Conservation Service,

as well as with other agencies, such as the US Forest Service, US Fish and Wildlife, NOAA, and the Cooperative Extension Service.

SWCDs' structure

Soil & Water Conservation districts are comprised of cooperators within a geographical area and each is administered by a five-member board of supervisors elected from those cooperators by the cooperators. These are volunteer positions and they receive no compensation for their work with the local board. The chairperson of each district, or another designated supervisor, serves as that district's representative on the AACD board.

AACD's administration

Each district is represented on the AACD board, and that board elects its president, vice president and secretary/treasurer. AACD's day-to-day operations are handled by an executive director and other staff.

AACD's leadership

Contact information for AACD's staff and executive committee:

Staff

Steve Hicks, AACD Executive Director, 1700 E. Bogard Rd Ste 203A, Wasilla, AK 99654 907-373-7923; aacd@mtaonline.net

Dee Pond , AACD Admin Assistant, 1700 E. Bogard Rd. Ste. 203A, Wasilla, AK 99654
907-373-7923; aacdoa@mtaonline.net

Joan Hope, AACD Project Manager, 1700 E. Bogard Rd. Ste. 203A, Wasilla, AK 907-315-1795;
aacdjoan@yahoo.com

Officers

Ken Marsh, AACD president, 907-733-2557; trappercreekmuseum@yahoo.com

Todd Pettit, AACD vice president, 907-745-5610; trpettit@mtaonline.net

Charlie Dorman, AACD secretary/treasurer, 907-486-5396; kodiaksmoking@gci.net

Chris Rainwater, AACD past president, 907-235-6278; growingk@gmail.com

- Governed by Alaska Statute 41.10 - Soil & Water Conservation Law
- Districts are authorized quasi-state entities under the Department of Natural Resources
- Operated by locally-elected five-person boards of volunteer supervisors
- Representing over 1,000 cooperators statewide.
- Cooperators are local land users who produce renewable resources and sign an agreement with their local soil and water conservation district.
- Districts provide many services to the public including natural resource education opportunities



**Agriculture to aquaculture
Salmon to bison
Erosion and flood control to restoration
...districts can help**

Alaska's Soil and Water Conservation Districts provide support and services to property owners and land managers.

- ✓ Agriculture & Subsistence
- ✓ Mariculture
- ✓ Forestry
- ✓ Horticulture
- ✓ Renewable Energy
- ✓ Land Management
- ✓ Nutrient Management
- ✓ Erosion Control
- ✓ Resource Development & Conservation
- ✓ Confidential Technical Assistance
- ✓ Educational Services
- ✓ Land Capability Surveys
- ✓ Land Use Consultation
- ✓ Comprehensive Planning Services
- ✓ Assistance Under the Alaska 'Right to Farm' Law
- ✓ Assistance With Other State, Federal, and Local Agencies

Soil and Water Conservation Districts' FY11 Annual Reports

Prepared by the Natural Resource Conservation and Development Board
The soil and water conservation districts in Alaska are created under the Department of Natural Resources and are governed locally by boards of volunteer supervisors. These pages contain the annual report of activities for the state's eleven districts for the fiscal year 2011.

Don't miss the Soil and Water Conservation Districts' annual reports for FY11! This report is available on CD by request and is posted online at:
<http://dnr.alaska.gov/commis/swcdb/resources.htm>.
Read about the district projects in your area.



WE WORK WITH A DIVERSE CUSTOMER BASE. HOW CAN WE HELP YOU?
Contact your local Soil and Water Conservation District for assistance



Soil & Water Conservation District History

The state of the nation's soil resources during the 1930's, a decade known as the Dust Bowl Era, inspired the establishment of soil and water conservation districts across the nation.

Alaska's first district was formed in 1947 and is still in operation today in Wasilla. In 1965, the districts collectively formed the Alaska Association of Conservation Districts (AACD) to provide administrative services and in 1983, the Natural Resource Conservation & Development Board (NRCDB) was established to assist districts. Districts work closely with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to implement Farm Bill programs in Alaska.



Alaska's Soil & Water Conservation Districts

Alaska's SWCDs encompass the following populated and surrounding areas:

Anchorage (1,251,640 acres)
Fairbanks (3,218,856 acres)
Homer (1,048,636 acres)
Kenai (298,430 acres)
Kenny Lake (206,522 acres)
Kodiak (3,134,209 acres)
Palmer (1,572,804 acres)
Salcha-Delta (2,493,650 acres)
Upper-Susitna (1,707,746 acres)
Wasilla (2,493,650 acres)
Mid-Yukon Kuskokwim (9,793,700 acres)

All other land not within a local SWCD (331,298,200 acres) is overseen by the Natural Resource Conservation & Development Board.



Natural Resource Conservation & Development Board
Department of Natural Resources
550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1400
Anchorage, AK 99501
Phone: (907) 269-5007
FAX: (907) 269-5605
[www. http://dnr.alaska.gov/commis/swcdb/swcdb.htm](http://dnr.alaska.gov/commis/swcdb/swcdb.htm)

Helping Alaska's Land Owners Develop and Conserve Their Natural Resources

United States Department of Agriculture



Natural Resources Conservation Service
800 West Evergreen Avenue, Suite 100
Palmer, AK 99645
907-761-7760 907-761-7790 FAX
www.ak.nrcs.usda.gov

The Honorable Charlie Huggins
State Senator
Alaska State Legislature
120 4th Street, State Capitol, Room 3
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Senator Huggins:

I am writing this letter to show my support for the Alaska Association of Conservation Districts (AACD) and their request for funding from the State of Alaska. Over the years, the AACD has maintained an effective working relationship with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Alaska, in our efforts to promote efficient use and management of renewable resources. Additionally, through previous earmarks, the twelve districts have been effectively providing assistance to landowners and land users.

The earmark under which we work with AACD is project oriented and does not allow for sufficient administration funding for the districts; continuing education for staff and supervisors; and, is capped on how much the association can use for public outreach activities. Those funds have to come from another source and, as you are aware, these are critical activities for successful project completion. Furthermore, I would like to point out that AACD is following accountability and compliance procedures in accordance with proper NRCS and OMB requirements.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert N. Jones".

ROBERT N. JONES
State Conservationist
USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service
Palmer, Alaska



Knik Elementary School

*Today, I will be respectful, responsible, and ready to learn.
I will do nothing less than my best.*

Traci Pedersen, Principal

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 877830
Wasilla, AK 99687
907-352-0300 Phone

Location:
6350 Hollywood Blvd.
Wasilla, AK 99654
907-352-0380 Fax

June 7, 2011

Ms. Catherine Inman
Wasilla Soil and Water Conservation District
Building A, Suite 203
1700 E. Bogard Road
Wasilla, Alaska 99654

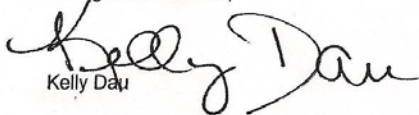
Dear Catherine:

Thank you so much for all of your effort, encouragement, and support in our initial stages of the Knik Elementary schoolyard habitat development. I still can't believe all that we accomplished! We now have a nature trail, we have extended our forest edge habitat (with 104 newly planted and watered trees), and we have a solid concept as to the design of our outdoor classroom seating area. I know that every fourth grade student from this year will always remember 'their contribution' to the initial stages of this on-going project.

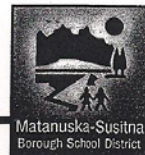
I received numerous compliments from teachers, staff, parents, and students who were able to participate in the nature trail tours led by our own trained naturalists. Even our tour monitor, Meghan, shared that all tour guides and groups were interested, engaged, and excited about this new development at Knik! The wealth of knowledge shared by our own naturalists of our nature trail and appropriate trail behavior was impressive. Thank you for taking the additional time necessary to make each of these students a trained tour guide and naturalist!

Again, thank you for helping to make all this happen! It has been a privilege to develop this partnership with you and the Wasilla Soil and Water Conservation District, Jeff Hayes and the U.S. Forest Service, and Matanuska Telephone Association. I hope everyone enjoys summer, and Knik Elementary School students and staff look forward to continuing to work together on the Knik Elementary schoolyard habitat project next fall and beyond!

With greatest thanks,


Kelly Day

cc: Traci Pedersen, Principal
Jeff Hayes, U.S. Forest Service
Catherine Esary, MSBSD



Mission: Mat-Su Borough School District prepares students for success.

Twindly Bridge Charter School

Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District

230 E. Paulson #76

Wasilla, Alaska 99654

Phone: (907) 376-6680 www.twindlybridge.us Fax: (907) 376-6683

Greg Miller Principal

George Taylor
Wasilla SWCD Office
1700 E. Bogard Rd. St A203
Wasilla, Ak 99654

Dear Mr. Taylor,

On behalf of Twindly Bridge Charter School, I would like to thank you for your generous donation of furniture and equipment to our school. These assets are appreciated as we continue to expand and grow our school.

I would also like to thank-you for coming and presenting to our students information on soils and ground water. The scientific information was informative and interesting, and will be a catalyst for further science teaching at our school.

Sincerely,

Greg Miller
Greg Miller Principal

"A bridge between home, school, and community learning"

Wasilla High School

Warriors

Amy Spargo
Principal

Jeff Nelles
Assistant Principal

Ed Ripley
Assistant Principal

Shari Taylor
Administrative Secretary

Paul Cossette
Activities Director

701 East Bogard Road - Wasilla, AK 99654-7129 Phone: 907-352-8200 Fax: 907-352-8280

September 27, 2011

Dear Wasilla Soil and Water District,

Thank you for your recent donation of the Macro Invertebrate Testing Kit to our Science Department. Your support of hands-on science at Wasilla High is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

WHS Science Department

Sarah Kitzon
H. C. H. H. H.
Faith Brunhoefer
Tim Waters

Mission: Mat-Su Borough School District prepares students for success.



Valley Community for
Recycling Solutions
PO Box 8766
Wasilla, AK 99687



Hi Catherine,
Happy New Year!

July 20, 2011 was a
beautiful day for a rain
garden planting. Thanks
so much for all you
and Wasilla Soil & Water
Conservation contributed
to help this project be a
success... including your
smoked salmon!

A belated Thank you, my friend
Thank you in Denaliq Athabascan
the midst of a snowy winter!!!

Catherine Inman
Wasilla S & W Conservation
1700 E Bogard Rd
Bldg. A j Ste 203
Wasilla, AK 99654

Willie A. Boyer
ex. Director

To whom it may concern,

Peonies bloom in Alaska in July, August and September and nowhere else in the world during this time. The University of Fairbanks has provided research results for the past five or more years helping to establish this new agriculture industry in Alaska. We have more than 15 peony farms in the Mat Su area and that number will continue to increase in the coming years.

Here are some state numbers:

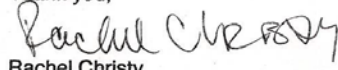
- 1) In 2011, approximately 10,000 cut stems were sold for an average price of \$4.00 per stem.
- 2) There are over 50,000 peony roots in the ground on peony farms in Alaska and farmers are continuing to add roots at over 10,000 roots per year.
- 3) Standard production figures are for 10 cut stems per plant. With 50,000 roots, 500,000 cuts per year are expected 2015. This equates to between and 1 and 2 million dollars a year in sales at a conservative estimate of \$2-\$4 per stem.
- 4) Value per acre: 2500-5000 plants per acre x 10 cuts x \$2-\$4 per stem equals \$50,000 to \$100,000 production value per acre.

One of the most cost effective things that we can do for the success of our peony fields is soil testing. The \$75 dollars we spent on soil testing this summer helped us decide which topsoil vendor to use. Because of soil testing, we were able to save \$20,000 in soil costs. Because of this great savings, I was very willing to serve on the Wasilla Soil and Water Conservation District board when asked. I do, however, have other motives as well. After some research this summer for equipment rental, I talked with a few peony farmers on the Kenai. I say a few because there are only 7 farms in that area and we already have a larger group here in the Mat Su. Anyway, the farmers down on the Kenai are able to rent equipment from their Kenai Soil and Water Conservation District for minimal costs. Bedshapers and tillers for \$35/day. Peony farmers in the Mat Su do not have that economic advantage in starting their farms. In fact, the high cost of start up is keeping many would be farmers in the stall.

I look forward to working on some of the obstacles we face in the Mat Su as peony farmers, while championing the many great programs the Wasilla Soil and Water Conservation District already has in place such as working with members of the community, as well as promoting conservation education in our local schools. I also appreciate the work they've accomplished on numerous stream bank restorations to promote healthy salmon habitats.

Please continue your support for the upcoming year! I'd be happy to talk more if you'd like to call.

Thank you,


Rachel Christy
Alaska Blooms Peony Farm, LLC
Meadow Lakes AK

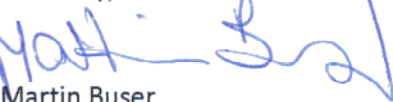
January 17, 2012

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

The Wasilla Soil & Water Conservation District is a valuable asset to our community. They have performed several streambank restorations, providing improved habitat for our salmon. In 2010, the Wasilla District was the recipient of the National Fish Habitat award. Other accomplishments include several rain gardens at local schools and senior centers, as well as community gardens at senior centers. They promote conservation education in our local schools and sponsor field trips to various conservation sites and projects. With the assistance of the Wasilla District, I participated in the pilot project for dog waste composting. The results were successful and after the District provided free nutrient testing of the compost, we were able to use the product on a flower garden at one of our local schools.

We are very thankful for the Wasilla Soil & Water Conservation District and appreciate the many projects and services that they offer to make our community a better place. We would encourage your support as well.

Sincerely,



Martin Buser

Happy Trails Kennel

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Senate District H
600 E. Railroad Avenue
Wasilla AK 99654
907-376-4866
907-373-4724 – Fax
Senator_Charlie_Huggins@legis.state.ak.us



State Capitol
Juneau AK 99801-1182
907-465-3878
Fax: 907-465-3265
800-862-3878
www.akrepublicans.org/huggins/

Senator Charlie Huggins

November 19, 2012

Commissioner Dan Sullivan
Alaska Department of Natural Resources
550 W. 7th Avenue, Suite 1400
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Dear Commissioner Sullivan:

I received a courtesy copy of an October 26, 2012, letter from Ken Marsh, President of the Alaska Association of Conservation Districts (AACD), to the Natural Resource Conservation and Development Board (NRCDB) requesting that Governor Parnell include \$1.2 million in DNR's budget for conservation district operations.

Not only have I worked with the AACD and the individual districts to secure capital funds in years past, but, as you can see from the attached correspondence, I have also long advocated for the Administration's financial support of the programs these districts provide.

I would like to go on record once again and respectfully encourage you to include this funding in your annual department budget. Thank you for considering my views.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charlie Huggins", written over a horizontal line.

Charlie Huggins
Senator

Att.

Cc: Representative Mark Neuman
Steve Hicks, Executive Director, AACD



Representative Alan Austerman
House Majority Leader

Alaska State Legislature

Session:

State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801
(907) 465-2487 | (800) 865-2487
(907) 465-4956 (fax)

Interim:

305 Center Ave, Suite 1
Kodiak, Alaska 99615
(907) 486-8872
(907) 486-5264 (fax)

January 30, 2013

The Honorable Sean Parnell
Governor of Alaska
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Governor Parnell:

I would like to express my support for the Kodiak Soil and Water Conservation Districts' \$50,000.00 appropriation as part of the Alaska Association of Conservation District's compiled budget request of \$1,200,000.00. This application is a critical component to the continuation of KSWCD as basic operational funds. Due to their efforts, they are largely supported by Kodiak community members and businesses as well as state and federal agencies however this funding is insufficient.

KSWCD has worked hard since 1964 to ensure that the natural resources of the Kodiak Archipelago are sustained, conserved, and restored within a landscape of productive agriculture, growing communities, and wild lands. They are an absolute asset to the Kodiak Island area through various endeavors; they monitor the wetlands, treat invasive species, run the local Farm to School project, as well as promote sustainable agriculture. I am particularly proud of their participation in the Farm Bill program that has created a wide variety of crop production through private landowners; thus generating a local farmers market for the community members.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate my support in funding KSWCD through AACD's request. Thank you for your consideration of this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alan".

Alan Austerman
House District 36

~ Representing Alaska State House District 36 ~

Akhiok | Igiugig | Iliamna | Karluk | Kodiak | Kokhanok | Larsen Bay | Levelock
Newhalen | Nondalton | Old Harbor | Ouzinkie | Pedro Bay | Port Alsworth | Port Lions