

State of Alaska FY2004 Governor's Operating Budget

Department of Natural Resources Conservation and Development Board Component Budget Summary

Component: Conservation and Development Board

Contact: Art Weiner, Special Assistant to the Commissioner
Tel: (907) 269-0842 **Fax:** (907) 269-8918 **E-mail:** art_weiner@dnr.state.ak.us

Component Mission

The mission of the Natural Resource Conservation and Development Board is to provide for the development, use, and conservation of farm, forest, and grazing land of the state in accordance with its capabilities through conservation planning.

Component Services Provided

The Natural Resources Conservation and Development Board provides advice, direction, and assistance to local Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs). The Board certifies elections of local SWCDs and provides administrative and technical assistance. The Board has the ability to make recommendations on "the orderly development of agricultural, forest and grazing land in the state" to the Commissioner and Director of the Division of Agriculture. In addition, the Board acts in an advisory capacity to the Commissioner and Director of the Division of Agriculture in the review of farm conservation plans for all state agricultural land sales in the Alaska District. The Executive Director coordinates the activities of the board, provides scientific and technical assistance, and provides a direct link to the Commissioner on matters relating to the Natural Resources Conservation and Development Board and Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

Component Goals and Strategies

The Natural Resource Conservation and Development Board:

- Works with the Board of Agriculture and Conservation and local Soil and Water Conservation Districts to identify and initiate land disposal projects.
- Works with Soil and Water Districts and the Natural Resource Conservation Service in the preparation of conservation plans.
- Works to increase local volunteer and low cost participation by Soil and Water Conservation Districts in water quality monitoring, erosion control and prevention, stream bank stabilization, and community education programs.
- Works to conserve soil and water resources in the state.

Key Component Issues for FY2003 – 2004

Language in the enabling legislation AS 41.10 defining membership in Soil and Water Conservation Districts needs further clarification.

Major Component Accomplishments in 2002

The Natural Resources Conservation and Development Board and the local Soil and Water Conservation Districts work closely with the US Department of Agriculture Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) on a variety of projects bringing substantial federal funding for important ongoing agricultural conservation programs. These include the Conservation Reserve Program, Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program, and the Environmental Quality Incentives Program. The current Delta-Clearwater Flood Control Project is an example of a successful cooperative effort involving SWCDs and NRCS.

The NRCDB and local SWCDs have become increasingly involved in Environmental Protection Agency programs to

address non-point source pollution problems in agricultural areas. Several districts are pursuing EPA funding for additional grants.

As part of a conflict resolution involving local SWCDB elections, the Executive Director and the NRCDB have developed new election procedures and membership documentation techniques for use by local Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

The Executive Director has developed a database for keeping accurate records of Soil and Water District Cooperators statewide.

The NRCDB Board has coordinated project planning and permitting for the Tonsina North Project managed by the Kenny Lake Soil and Water Conservation District.

Statutory and Regulatory Authority

AS 41.10

Conservation and Development Board
Component Financial Summary

All dollars in thousands

	FY2002 Actuals	FY2003 Authorized	FY2004 Governor
Non-Formula Program:			
Component Expenditures:			
71000 Personal Services	0.0	44.9	45.3
72000 Travel	0.0	19.0	19.0
73000 Contractual	0.0	24.4	24.4
74000 Supplies	0.0	1.2	1.2
75000 Equipment	0.0	0.0	0.0
76000 Land/Buildings	0.0	0.0	0.0
77000 Grants, Claims	0.0	25.0	0.0
78000 Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0
Expenditure Totals	0.0	114.5	89.9
Funding Sources:			
1007 Inter-Agency Receipts	0.0	25.0	0.0
1021 Agricultural Loan Fund	0.0	89.5	89.9
Funding Totals	0.0	114.5	89.9

Conservation and Development Board

Proposed Changes in Levels of Service for FY2004

In FY03, Conference Committee authorized \$25.0 of IA receipts intended to come from the (DEC) Dept. of Environmental Conservation (federal EPA - 319 funds) to the Natural Resource Conservation and Development Board. DEC and the EPA have indicated that the established competitive process for awarding grants from the 319 funds is the appropriate process and the one they will continue to use. The FY04 budget request eliminates the excess interagency receipts authorization.

Summary of Component Budget Changes

From FY2003 Authorized to FY2004 Governor

All dollars in thousands

	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
FY2003 Authorized	0.0	0.0	114.5	114.5
Adjustments which will continue current level of service:				
- \$75 per Month Health Insurance Increase for Non-covered Staff	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.4
Proposed budget decreases:				
- Eliminate Excess Interagency Receipt Authorization	0.0	0.0	-25.0	-25.0
FY2004 Governor	0.0	0.0	89.9	89.9

Conservation and Development Board

Personal Services Information

	Authorized Positions		Personal Services Costs	
	<u>FY2003</u> <u>Authorized</u>	<u>FY2004</u> <u>Governor</u>		
Full-time	0	1	Annual Salaries	34,731
Part-time	0	0	Premium Pay	0
Nonpermanent	0	0	Annual Benefits	10,708
			<i>Less 0.31% Vacancy Factor</i>	(139)
			Lump Sum Premium Pay	0
Totals	0	1	Total Personal Services	45,300

Position Classification Summary

<u>Job Class Title</u>	<u>Anchorage</u>	<u>Fairbanks</u>	<u>Juneau</u>	<u>Others</u>	<u>Total</u>
Spec Asst To The Comm I	1	0	0	0	1
Totals	1	0	0	0	1