

# Notes from Efficiency Subcommittee Meeting

May 30, 2013

## Areas of focus developed by the SAG for the Efficiency Subcommittee as grouped by the Subcommittee:

- 1) Regional Coordination
  - a) Workforce Sharing
  - b) Partnership
  - c) Marketing
  - d) Inter-District Communications - Sharing Best Practices
- 2) State/Federal Coordination
  - a) Gap Analysis of Programs
  - b) Engineering Capacity
- 3) Cost Reduction
  - a) Vehicle Funding
  - b) Procurement Practices
    - i) Insurance
    - ii) Personnel Benefits
  - c) Technical Assistance
  - d) Sharing Best Practices
- 4) Efficient Practice Implementation
  - a) Practice Prioritization
  - b) Targeting Large Farm Operations
    - i) VACS Cap
- 5) District Boundaries

## Summary of subcommittee recommendations and the associated focus areas from above:

- Develop and deploy a skills database for District employees (1.a and 1.b)
- District Staff should work to build internal capacity by gaining additional job approval authority. (2.b)
- If internal capacity is lacking at a District, they should look to Regional Coordination to address work backlogs. (1.a, 1.b and 2.b)
- Initiate DCR hire of Professional Engineer (2.b)
  - DCR engineer should be mentored by NRCS to gain field expertise (2.b)

- DCR Engineer would help address remaining work backlogs (2.b)
  - DCR Engineer would help in building District internal capacity, assisting with training to increase District employee job approval authority. (1.b and 2.b)
- SWCDs are eligible to use state contracts for vehicle purchasing, but should comparison shop. Some vehicles are less expensive when purchased off the lot. (3.a)
- Investigate the potential to use the newly developed VASWCD Wiki as a mechanism to share best practices among districts. (1.d and 3.d)