

National Association of Conservation Districts

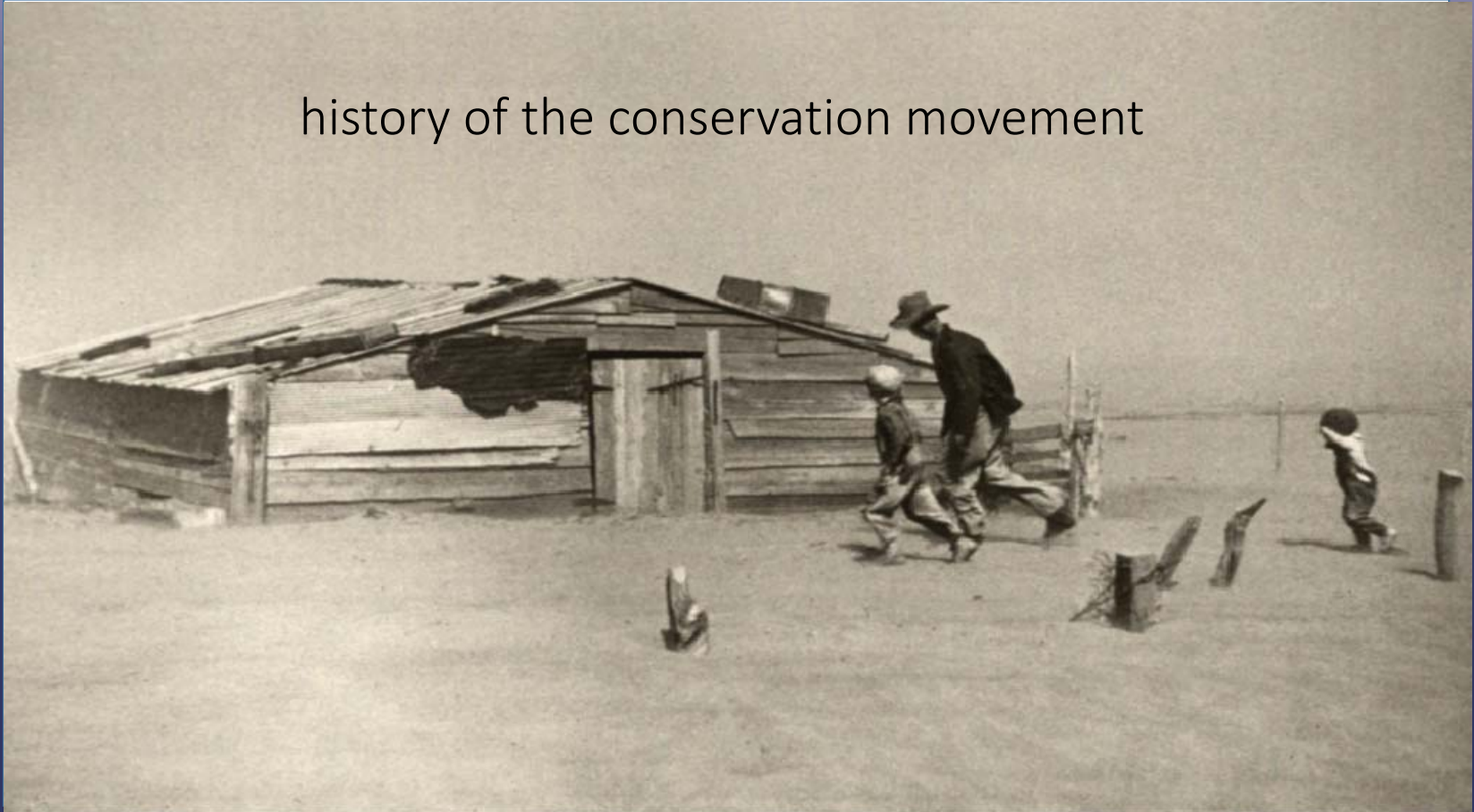
WQT: Conservation District Perspectives and Engagement
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introduction

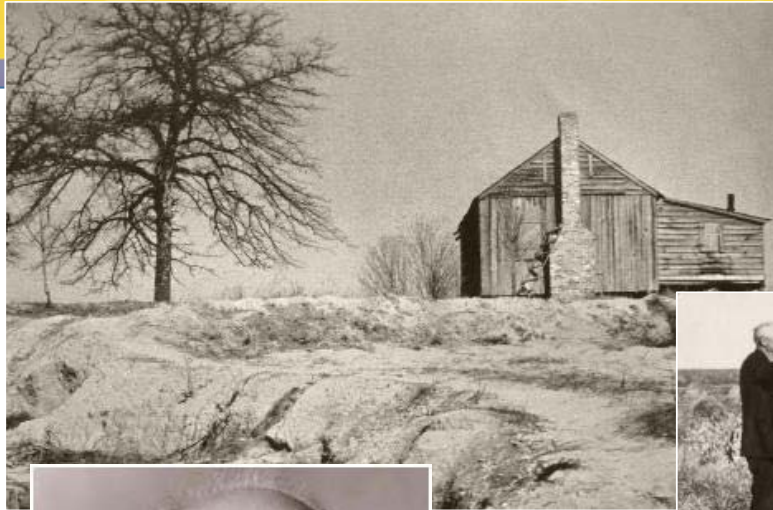
history of the conservation movement



Dust bowl impacts

- Hundreds of thousands uprooted
- “Dust pneumonia” and other illnesses
- By 1934: 100 million acres no longer had enough topsoil for crops





“Take care of the land and the land will take care of you.”

Local Input and Guidance

- 1937 – President Roosevelt sends out model conservation district law
- Brown Creek, N.C., becomes first conservation district
- 1946 – NACD founded



Why We Are Here

Today:

- 3,000 soil and water conservation districts
- 17,000 elected or appointed district officials
- 50-plus state and territorial associations.
- Work closely with NRCS, other nonprofits and private sector



Why We Are Here

- Nearly three-fourths of the continental United States is in private ownership.
- Active, voluntary support from local landowners is key to success of conservation work on private land.



Why Districts are Important

THE KEY =

Voluntary, locally-led, incentives-based
approach to conservation

Why Districts are Important

Our Role:

Conservation districts are working at the local level as an essential link between government and landowners to implement sustainable conservation measures and provide technical resources to reduce environmental footprint and conserve the resources that are the foundation for sustainable agriculture – **the soil and water.**

Conservation Partnerships

Opportunities:

- Soil Health
 - Erosion and Sediment Control
 - Cover Crops
- Water (Quality & Quantity)
 - Nutrient Load Reduction
 - Irrigation Efficiency
- Natural Disasters & Climate Change
 - Drought Recovery
 - Carbon Sequestration

Soil Health

- Erosion and Sediment Control
 - Partnering with NRCS on Soil Health Initiative
- Promotion of key principles of soil health
 - Using plant diversity to increase diversity in the soil
 - Managing soils more by disturbing them less
 - Growing a living root throughout the year
 - Keeping the soil covered as much as possible



Water

Water Quality Trading

- Investment in health of U.S. watersheds, including the Ohio River Basin
- Promotion of conservation measures to improve water quality (cover crops, buffers, sediment control, etc.)



WQT: Market Benefits

Conservation = Smart Economic Investment

Roles for conservation districts in WQT markets include:

- Conservation planning
- Technical Assistance and Practice Installation
- Verification
- Aggregation



Conclusion

- Nexus between landowners and proactive conservation implementation
- Science-based decision making
 - Health and sustainability of the land and water resources
 - Economic impacts
- Locally-led decision making and partnerships
 - Technical and funding assistance from federal, state and local governments and the private sector.



How you can help

Our continuity depends on partnerships ranging from the local to the corporate level and we are always looking for new organizations to work together for a common cause.

For more information about partnering with NACD, please visit our website at www.nacdnet.org or call us at 202-547-6223





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www.nacdnet.org