NACD leadership says, there are those who want to do away with local leadership to fill our shoes. NACD CEO, Jeremy Peters stated that he was worried about those that don't engage, stating, “We have to build stronger connections. We have to reach out to each other more. It gives me hope for conservation every time the phone rings. The opportunities to engage are abundant.”

Staying relevant and engaged theme throughout meeting

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Jason Weller and Forest Service Chief Thomas Tidwell.
Ron Nichols, NRCS Soil Health Communications Coordinator, encourages us not to be afraid to use emotion and passion when communicating about conservation.

Districts must get innovative to be successful. Keynote speaker, Michael Tchong encourages brevity.

NRCS Resource Stewardship Initiative (RSI)...• inspires change among farmers
• creates efficiencies in conservation planning
• quantifies results beyond dollars spent

9B talks Farm Bill – past, present, future!
Lindahl will use information to prepare for Spring Fly-In to Washington D.C.!

Sustainability out – regeneration in!
Indiana farmer and Commissioner Ray McCormick asks, “What if I told my wife our marriage was sustainable?”
Lindahl ponders, “Who would ever strive to break even?”
Delaware farmers says, “Don’t live off the principal, gain interest, feed the bank!”

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Delaware’s Soil Tunnel takes people underground at public events.
Ohio’s trailer seeks to reach Generation I.

Multigenerational, Multidisciplinary staff leads to WOW factor outreach in South Carolina’s urban areas.

National Geographic Photographer, Jim Richardson, takes attendees on a tour of world’s agriculture with beautiful images.

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soilhealthinstitute.org
Soil Health is trending – but no trend!

- Keynote speaker, Michael Tchong talks about knowing your ubertrends and how they change values in population. Learn more at michaeltchong.com
- Speakers discuss how retail is driving trends.
- Soil health has captivated Ag Media.
- Farmer reports having more pictures on phone of soil than kids.
- Iowa Sociologist, J. Arbuckle’s survey results show farmers recognize soil health, are taking action. The proof is in the numbers.
- Farmer states, “My neighbors think I am crazy.” Lindahl is reminded of the quote, “Being positive in a negative situation is not naive, it’s leadership” and the fact Hugh Hammond Bennett was viewed as an outcast.

- Research important but implementation can’t wait! Ron Nichols, NRCS Soil Health Communications Coordinator, states, “If the Wright Brothers would have waited for all the research on Aeronautics to be done, they would still be on the ground at Kitty Hawk!”
- The farmers who are trying soil health practices are courageous! They are the ones solving the problem.
- Aldo Leopold stated, “The art of land doctoring is being practiced with vigor, but the science of land health is yet to be born.”

Until now with soil health!

Connecting becomes reconnecting for Lindahl

Taking part in NACD events has allowed me to build relationships! Now when I see people, we are not connecting but reconnecting, allowing for much deeper, fuller conversations about the challenges and opportunities we all face as a conservation family.

In Reno, I got to reconnect with commissioners, leaders, staff and my fellow Executive Directors!

NACD CEO Jeremy Peters is passionate about our cause and is working hard for us and conservation!

Thank you for affording me the opportunity to attend!

Clare Lindahl
CDI President Bob Lynch represented Iowa in the parade of states at meeting kick off.

Iowa recognized for being top 10 contributing state, giving NACD over $44,000 in support this year.

CDI President Bob Lynch and CDI Vice President Alex Schmidt represent Iowa at many meetings.

Auction breaks record, over $80,000 raised, Iowa's Tim Palmer acknowledged as Auction Chair.

Commissioners Cliff Bowie & Don Elsbernd in attendance, recruited relentlessly by Lindahl to join CDI Board, Elsbernd acknowledged for being a Soil Health Champion.

State Con Kurt Simon attends, public affairs officer Laura Crowell speaks about reaching woman landowners.

Wayne Peterson touts Iowa's urban conservation, NRCS announces urban support.

Friend of CDI, Agri Drain supports and displays at meeting.

Friend of CDI, Bruce Barnhardt represents LICA at the meeting.

Chrissy Rhodes recruits new members to the Soil and Water Conservation Society.

Iowa's NACD North Central Regional representative Beth Mason hard at work.

Boone Co. youth Jackson Smith wins 3rd place in Conservation Poster Contest, Grades 7-9.