



Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe

Chief James W. Ransom
Chief Lorraine M. White
Chief Barbara A. Lazore
Sub-Chief Ronald LaFrance, Jr.
Sub-Chief Donald D. Thompson, Sr.
Sub-Chief Stacy A. Adams

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For more information:

Public Information Office,
St. Regis Mohawk Tribe
Tel: (518) 358-2272 ext. 286
Fax: (518) 358-9675

ST. REGIS MOHAWK TRIBE AND THE NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE DISCUSS TRIBAL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Akwesasne, NY -- What is a Tribal Conservation District and why is it needed? Those questions sparked discussion between the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

While one is a sovereign nation and the other is a federal agency under the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), both groups have a similar mission, helping people to help the land. The Tribe is determined to do what's right for Mother Earth and to assure protection of natural resources for generations to follow. Similarly, NRCS strives to help private landowners to conserve and enhance everything from soil, water, plants, and animals.

"Establishing a Tribal Conservation District can be an effective tool to regulate our growth as a community. Protecting the environment as we grow is very important," said Tribal Chief James W. Ransom. "We welcome the opportunity to work with the USDA on this important project."

"It is an honor and a privilege to work with the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe," says Ron Alvarado, State Conservationist for the NRCS in New York. "Establishing a Tribal Conservation District would allow us to better serve the community with conservation technical assistance and bring USDA programs that benefit our natural resources and the members of the Akwesasne community," he continued.

(more)

412 State Route 37
Akwesasne, New York 13655
Phone: 518-358-2272
Fax: 518-358-3203

A Tribal Conservation District provides an entity for the USDA and the Tribe to work together. USDA needs the Tribal District's local leadership to help guide them in bringing the needed programs and services to the Reservation. It also provides education and information on conservation, orderly development, and wise use of the Tribe's natural resources. A Tribal Conservation District can also implement programs that encourage proactive, cooperative alliances with others to promote environmental stewardship and sustainability.

Examples of Tribal Conservation District projects might include the installation of conservation practices on agricultural lands to address animal waste, sedimentation, noxious weeds, insufficient water supply for livestock or irrigation, pesticide or nutrient contamination of ground or surface waters, at-risk species habitat, or invasive species.

Currently, there are 29 Tribal Conservation Districts across the Nation. The most recent Tribal Conservation Districts include the Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma, the White Earth Tribe of Minnesota, and the Tyonek Tribe of Alaska.

In partnership with the Conservation District, NRCS provides technical and financial assistance to help agricultural producers design, plan, and implement their conservation practices. If a Tribal Conservation District is established with the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe, it would be the first in the East Region under the National Association of Conservation Districts. USDA is an equal opportunity employer and provider.