



September 20, 2019

Subject: State Level Memoranda of Agreement

To: New York Soil and Water Conservation District Chairpersons

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Nation's Soil and Water Conservation Districts share a rich history of collaborating to deliver comprehensive technical and financial assistance to farmers, ranchers, forest stewards and other entities to voluntarily conserve and enhance natural resources. NRCS also shares a special "government to government" relationship with Tribal governments and their entities, including Tribal conservation districts or Tribal Conservation Advisory Councils, that are grounded in the doctrine of trust.

Along with these historical and unique relationships, NRCS has special statutory authorities to cooperate and share resources with Conservation Districts and Tribes for the conservation and enhancement of natural resources. NRCS, Conservation Districts, and Tribal Advisory Councils typically document our cooperative relationship via Memoranda of Agreement (MOA), in this case a Local-Level MOA where the agreement is signed by the NRCS State Conservationist, Area or District Conservationist, and Tribal Council or Conservation District Chairperson.

I have attached a draft copy of the Nationally-approved MOA used between NRCS and Conservation Districts or Tribal Councils throughout the country. This MOA attempts to document the parties' cooperative relationship and will provide a road map to constructing new and building upon current relationships. I am excited to work with you as we share a common goal of helping and providing quality service to agriculture producers across this great state.

In the near future, NRCS will be contacting you to discuss this MOA at your board meeting and to receive approval and signature from you.

A mailed copy of the correspondence will follow this electronic version. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me at blake.glover@usda.gov.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Blake Glover", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Blake Glover
New York State Conservationist