



## ***Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts***

*1497 Country View Land • Temple, Texas 76504 • 254-778-8741*

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October 28, 2020

Conservation District Directors:

September 1, 2020 marked the start of a new fiscal year for the Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Our 2020 financial report showed the Association in a very good financial position and that was only possible through your support of quota payments to your organization. We certainly realize that most of the 2020 fiscal year has been unprecedented and are looking forward to the return of a more “normal” way of doing business.

We are poised to start FY 2021 off in a great way but we need your continued support. The FY 2021 quota statement is attached. The Association has worked hard to bring in supplemental sources of revenue so we can maintain our quota at previous year levels and continue to grow the organization and the support we can provide to districts. The total assessment remains at \$675.00. This includes \$425.00 for Association Quota, \$200.00 for the Public Information and Education Program and \$50.00 for the Awards Program.

The Association quota is used to support the basic function of the office, including rent, utilities, salaries and office supplies. It also plays a big role in our ability to sign agreements with NRCS as it is used to support our part of the agreements. Just as a reminder, payments from the 555 Program are eligible to be used as matching funds. We highly encourage all districts to participate in this program.

The Public Information and Education Program is used to support a variety of projects. In fiscal year 2020 funds were used for \$7000.00 in college scholarships to winners of the Texas FFA Soil Stewardship Speaking Contest. These are the FFA members that make their presentation every year at our Annual Meeting. This program also supports the WAY Program (another youth contest for 4-H and FFA members) and our District Leadership Development workshop. This is only a small example of what we support with PI&E funds.

As you know, you must pay the \$50.00 assessment to participate in the Awards Program. We highly encourage participation in the Awards Program, this is one of our best opportunities to highlight the great conservation work going on across Texas.

We realize that as we head in 2021 there are still many unknowns concerning COVID-19 and our operations. However, I do know that with extensions of all our agreements we are ready to hit the ground running as soon as possible. Conservation of our natural resources never stops and we have never stopped working for districts and landowners. We look forward to another successful year.

Please do not hesitate to contact myself or any other board member should you have questions or concerns at any time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rick Schilling', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Rick Schilling, President  
ATSWCD