

The Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation district currently has an opening for an appointed commissioner. This is a nonpaid voluntary position, and the applicant must reside in Beaufort County.

A District Commissioner is an appointed or elected member of the governing body of a conservation district. In taking the Oath of Office, a commissioner commits to exercising the rights and responsibilities of Commissioners as spelled out in Soil and Water Conservation Districts Law, Section 48-9-10 of the South Carolina Code of Laws.

This law charges conservation districts with the responsibility of providing first-line leadership in developing and implementing plans to meet the conservation needs of the district. It also charges commissioners with the responsibility of finding the resources with which to plan and implement programs that will address the conservation needs of the district.

To be an effective member of the conservation district board, a commissioner must:

- Be familiar with the state law.
- Help identify conservation needs and assist with the planning to address these needs. Planning should be done on an annual and long-range basis.
- Work with all agencies with conservation interests and expertise to meet conservation needs.
- Cooperate with other districts and/or agencies to develop and carry out conservation plans.
- Determine funding needs and find sources of funds to meet conservation needs.
- Keep the public informed about the conservation programs and other local, state, and federal conservation programs.
- Stay abreast of conservation issues and speak out wherever and whenever you have the opportunity to educate the public on issues that affect our natural resources.
- Find ways to evaluate the progress of your conservation programs. Evaluations should be done annually and on a long-range basis.
- Support the mission and goals of the South Carolina Association of Conservation Districts (SCACD) by participating in SCACD conferences, workshops, and events; paying annual dues; and promoting programs of SCACD.
- **Finally, never relinquish your responsibilities to your staff!** Staff, whether district, SCDNR, or Natural Resources and Conservation Service, exist to help you carry out the programs you help formulate. Your responsibility is to plan and to implement these programs; theirs is to assist you in this effort.

Applications will be accepted through the close of business on August 14, 2026, via email at bswcd@islc.net, or in person Crystal Lake Park 124 Lady's Island Dr, Beaufort 29907. For additional information please call 843-255-7306. Office hours M-F 9am-2pm.