

## DNREC Conservation District Operations: Recommendations

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<u>Recommendation &amp; Status</u>	<u>What to Do Next</u>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Recommendation 1: Continue or Terminate</b></p> <p>Under §10213(a), Title 29, the Committee must determine whether there is a genuine public need for an agency under review. To meet this requirement, the Committee may select one of the following options.</p> <p><u>Option 1:</u> The Conservation District Operations program of DNREC’s Division of Watershed Stewardship shall continue, subject to any further recommendations that JLOSC adopts.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">- OR -</p> <p><u>Option 2:</u> The Conservation District Operations program of DNREC’s Division of Watershed Stewardship is terminated and the Committee will sponsor legislation to implement this recommendation.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Status:</b></p> <p>2/10: First consideration of this recommendation.</p>	<p><b>Vote whether to approve this recommendation. A motion to approve this Rec must receive 7 “yes” votes to carry.</b></p> <p><b>Analyst Recommendation: Option 1 is adopted by the Committee.</b></p>

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<u>Recommendation &amp; Status</u>	<u>What to Do Next</u>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Recommendation 2: Drainage Program Realignment</b></p> <p>DNREC and the Division of Watershed Stewardship shall continue the effort to realign the Drainage Program to function as two units within the Conservation Programs Section: The Tax Ditch Program and the Public Ditch Program.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Status:</b></p> <p>2/10: First consideration of this recommendation.</p>	<p><b>Discuss and vote on this recommendation.</b></p>
<u>Recommendation &amp; Status</u>	<u>What to Do Next</u>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Recommendation 3: Tax Ditch Working Group</b></p> <p>The existing internal working group shall engage the necessary external stakeholders to identify and find potential solutions to address the following issues affecting the tax ditch infrastructure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Insufficient funding for maintenance.</li> <li>b. Operational issues between tax ditch organizations, counties, and DNREC Drainage Program.</li> <li>c. Changes in the environment, land use, and development.</li> <li>d. Staffing and tax ditch officer retention and turnover.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Status:</b></p> <p>2/10: First consideration of this recommendation.</p>	<p><b>Discuss and vote on this recommendation.</b></p>

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<u>Recommendation &amp; Status</u>	<u>What to Do Next</u>
<p><b>Recommendation 4: Existing Tax Ditch Organizations</b>                      The Drainage Program shall review the existing 234 tax ditch organizations and identify any that may be combined due to physical proximity or other factors.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Status:</b>                      2/10: First consideration of this recommendation.</p>	<p><b>Discuss and vote on this recommendation.</b></p>
<u>Recommendation &amp; Status</u>	<u>What to Do Next</u>
<p><b>Recommendation 5: Dissolving a Tax Ditch Organization</b>                      The Drainage Program shall engage the Tax Ditch Working Group in drafting an updated process to dissolve a tax ditch organization due to nonfeasance and other failures of statutory obligations.</p> <p><u>Option:</u> The Drainage Program reports to the JLOSC on the organizational and financial need required for the Tax Ditch Program to successfully take over and manage a failing tax ditch organization.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Status:</b>                      2/10: First consideration of this recommendation.</p>	<p><b>Discuss and vote on this recommendation.</b></p>

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<u>Recommendation &amp; Status</u>	<u>What to Do Next</u>
<p><b>Recommendation 6: Kent and Sussex Conservation District Projects</b> The Drainage Program shall establish a mechanism for developing scalable and manageable projects to expand the roles of the Kent and Sussex Conservation Districts.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Status:</b> 2/10: First consideration of this recommendation.</p>	<p><b>Discuss and vote on this recommendation.</b></p>
<u>Recommendation &amp; Status</u>	<u>What to Do Next</u>
<p><b>Recommendation 7: Reporting Updates</b> The Drainage Program shall submit a status report, no later than January 31, 2022 to the JLOSC. Report shall include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Findings of the Tax Ditch Working Group.</li> <li>b. Analysis of the proposal to combine any existing tax ditch organizations.</li> <li>c. Status of process to dissolve tax ditch organizations.</li> <li>d. Update on expanded partnerships between Kent and Sussex Conservation districts.</li> <li>e. Latest RC&amp;D Project Prioritization list.</li> </ul> <p><u>Option:</u> Analysis related to the Option in Recommendation 5</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Status:</b> 2/10: First consideration of this recommendation.</p>	<p><b>Discuss and vote on this recommendation.</b></p>

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<u>Recommendation &amp; Status</u>	<u>What to Do Next</u>
<p><b>Recommendation 8: Release from Review or Hold Over</b></p> <p><u>Option 1:</u> The Conservation District Operations program of DNREC’s Division of Watershed Stewardship is released from review upon submission of the required reporting due to the Committee.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">- OR -</p> <p><u>Option 2:</u> The Conservation District Operations program of DNREC’s Division of Watershed Stewardship is held over and shall report to the Committee in January 2022.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Status:</b> 2/10: First consideration of this recommendation</p>	<p><b>Discuss and vote on this recommendation.</b></p> <p><b>Analyst Recommendation: Option 1 is adopted by the Committee.</b></p>

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