



## **NSDC Federal Advocacy Committee**

### **Agenda**

**1.23.2024**

#### **Welcome and Updates: Ann Terry, Chair**

- Welcome
- Approval of Minutes (1a below)

#### **Federal Advocacy Update: Paragon Government Affairs**

- 119<sup>th</sup> Congress - Organizational Notes
- Trump Administration - Organizational Notes
- Outlook and Strategy: Reintroduction of the Special District Grant Accessibility Act
- Formation of Congressional Special District Caucus
- Forest Management Legislation, including the Fix Our Forests Act (FOFA)
- EPA's Draft Health-Based Recommendations for PFAS Levels in Bodies of Water
  - <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-releases-draft-health-based-recommendations-pfas-levels-bodies-water>
  - Thank you Phil Tucker!

#### **Other Items:**

- FDTA proposed rules: David Ulbricht
- OSHA – Status on heat rules: Jason Jantzi
- Policy Advisors: Chantal Unfug
- Next meeting date: Feb 27th

Reminder: Federal Policy Program and Alerts will be on the website:

<https://www.nationalspecialdistricts.org/federal-advocacy>



**NSDC Federal Advocacy Committee**  
**Minutes**  
**12.05.2024**

**Welcome and Updates**

**Chair:** Frank Stratton

Frank Stratton welcomed trial members and guests.

**Approval of Minutes:**

- Motion to approve: Michael Valdez
- Seconded by: Kyle Packham
- The minutes were unanimously approved.

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**Federal Advocacy Update: Paragon**

**Remaining Legislative Items for 2024**

- **SDGAA (H.R. 7525) Update:**
  - With only nine days remaining in the session, prospects for the bill's passage are not favorable. It will likely be postponed until the 119th Congress.
  - Paragon explored the possibility of securing Unanimous Consent through the "hotlining" process or attaching the bill to other legislation. However, Senator Rand Paul has indicated he will not support this or several other bills. Additionally, this bill will not be included in a continuing resolution.
  - Paragon has been actively tracking developments and, if unsuccessful in this session, will implement a 2025 strategy, which includes building new contacts and refining messaging.
  - NSDC leads will reach out to contacts who may influence Senator Paul. Chantal will provide unified messaging for distribution to members. The strategy will also incorporate monitoring newly introduced bills for potential opportunities to attach relevant language.
- **FY 2025 Appropriations:**
  - A comprehensive appropriations bill is not expected. The House Speaker intends to move the budget process into the spring, possibly March, to go through the full appropriations cycle for FY 2025, which may consequently delay the FY 2026 process.
  - A \$100 billion disaster response spending bill is expected to be addressed in 2024.
- **WRDA Reauthorization:**

- The biennial package, comprising 623 pages, was finalized this week and is expected to pass during this session.
  - **Farm Bill:**
    - The reauthorization process, ongoing for two years, will result in another one-year extension rather than a full reauthorization.
  - **Fix Our Forests Act:**
    - NSDC achieved notable successes in this bill; however, it will not pass this session and is expected to be revisited next year.
  - **PFAS Legislation:**
    - Due to anticipated political shifts within the EPA, the impact of the Superfund law remains uncertain. Advocacy efforts will focus on regulatory frameworks before pursuing legislative action.
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### **Outlook for 2025 – New Congress and Administration**

- Relationship-building efforts will be prioritized with the incoming leadership.
  - The budget reconciliation process is expected to serve as the primary vehicle for addressing tax cuts, border security, defense spending, and energy independence.
  - The legislative agenda remains ambitious. Currently, the House composition stands at 220 Republicans and 215 Democrats; however, with three Republican members transitioning to the Administration, the effective majority will narrow to 217-215, which may influence legislative efficiency and effectiveness.
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### **Other Items**

- **Tax Benefits for Associations:**
    - Kyle Packham raised the question of whether NSDC should join the Association of Association Executives.
    - Members are encouraged to engage with their respective delegations on this matter.
    - The Executive Committee will discuss this proposal during the December 13 Budget Approval Meeting.
  - **OSHA Testimony:**
    - Appreciation was expressed to Jason Jantzi for his testimony.
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### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned following the completion of all agenda items.