Centennial Conservation District and South Platte Conservation District will join forces to meet the natural resource conservation needs of landowners throughout Logan County and northeastern Weld County.

A special election was held Dec. 2, and landowners from the two districts voted to consolidate the districts, forming the new district, which will be known as “Centennial Conservation District.”

Conservation districts are political subdivisions of state government which represent local landowners’ interests for developing conservation priorities. The Colorado Department of Agriculture’s State Conservation Board administers funding and offers leadership training and statutory guidance to those conservation districts.

According to state statute, supervisors from the original boards will work as an “organizational board” to identify the new district’s first five-member board. This decision will be made within six months. Mark Cronquist, conservation specialist on the staff with the Colorado State Conservation Board, assisted the districts in conducting the election as the designated election official.

“The two districts have worked together on a variety of conservation projects and educational programs through the years and understand the needs of farmers, ranchers and small acreage owners in the area,” said Cronquist. “All of the supervisors are committed to improving the opportunities and programs available to their constituents through this consolidation.”

The creation of the new conservation district will help in a variety of ways, including:

—bringing more resources to area-wide conservation problems,.

—a greater consistency of programs offered by the conservation district.

—the new district boundaries will more closely match the existing county boundaries.

“The new boundaries will, hopefully, reduce confusion among cooperators as to where they can find help and services for their land,” continued Cronquist.

“The districts perform a valuable service and the consolidation will allow the new Centennial Conservation District to strengthen existing partnerships and develop new ones in order to improve natural resource conservation practices in Logan County and northeastern Weld County.”

For more on Colorado’s Conservation Districts and their services, visit www.colorado.gov/ag/csd and click on “Colorado State Conservation Board.”