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Washington Association of Conservation Districts

Five Things to Know

July 23, 2020

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1: Vacancy in the office of WACD Vice President

Javier Lopez, who has been serving as the Association's Vice President for the last year and a half, recently informed President Jeanette Dorner that he would no longer be able to serve due to personal reasons. Fortunately, his experience is not lost to us as he will remain as an active supervisor for the South Yakima Conservation District and will continue to contribute to WACD committees.

We take this opportunity to publicly thank Javier for his valuable contributions to WACD and to the conservation district movement, and wish him well in all of his endeavors.

The WACD Board of Directors will discuss this vacancy in the vice president position at their regular meeting on September 15. Questions should be directed to President Jeanette Dorner or Executive Director Tom Salzer.

2: Agriculture and Water Quality Advisory Committee meeting held

WACD Executive Director Tom Salzer represented Washington's 45 conservation districts at the July 22nd meeting of the [Agriculture and Water Quality Advisory Committee](#). Conservation districts received substantial praise during the meeting for their work to implement water quality best management practices with local cooperators.

3: Reminder to follow COVID-19 restrictions in NRCS offices

We have heard of some instances of conservation district staff not fully complying with the restrictions in place in NRCS offices. We ask that you follow NRCS's requirements whenever you are in their workspace or using their facilities or vehicles.

4: We still need your comments on the Strategic Plan

WACD needs your comments on the first three elements of a new strategic plan. Learn more and use the feedback form on [WACD's website](#).

5: Don't forget to comment on proposed election rule changes

Don't miss your chance to express your thoughts on proposed changes to conservation district elections! In late May, the Conservation Commission posted [proposed changes to conservation district elections](#). The public comment period is now open and WACD encourages you to submit your comments to the Commission. The link to do so is <https://www.formstack.com/forms/?2726604-JfwJs6JKCL>. There are also opportunities to participate in public hearings on August 6th and August 11th.

Executive Corner

Dear weblinx,

As I write this it is July 23rd: opening day for baseball!

In a normal year, baseball season mirrors the growing season (wheat in the case of my family) and there is a steady, repetitive tempo if you listen hard enough, constant from one year to the next. Each spring is a new beginning with endless possibilities, then you struggle through the dog days of summer, and when that first cold snap arrives you take a deep breath and look forward to next year.

This year, it's not a stretch to say that everyone has been challenged to hear that tempo of normalcy. Baseball has a name when a hitter loses their rhythm: it is called a "slump."

Last year, [Chris Davis of the Baltimore Orioles](#) went 62 plate appearances without a hit. In a sport where even the best hitters record an out every seven tries out of ten, that was a record setter. Worse is he did this over two seasons, ending one year in a slump and starting out the next year with a 0-33 record. Seven months without a hit!

To me, what separates baseball from other sports is the constant, everyday failure that players and teams and fans must face. Even the greatest teams will lose more than a third of their games (*cough* 2001 Seattle Mariners). The winningest pitcher in the sport, Cy Young, also holds the record for the most losses. In the same vein, I am reminded of several tongue-in-check comments I heard when oil futures went negative this spring, i.e., that it was everyday life in agriculture to spend more money growing something than it was worth.

Those defeats force us out of our natural patterns. You begin to doubt yourself, get emotional, and can break down under the stress of trying to find the way back to "normal." Baseball compresses that stress into every game, every inning, and every pitch. Yet somehow, people keep trying. Listening to the rhythm of the game (or the rhythm of the environment around you) takes effort and concentration. And there is always the fear you won't hear the tempo again.

Yet despite life's disruptions, the future worries, and the past failures, we never know what happens unless we try. When Chris Davis finally broke out of his slump during a visit to Boston's Fenway Park in mid-April, the notoriously rough home crowd delivered a standing ovation. All was right with the world once more.

I am sure that we will eventually get back to normal and all will be right in our world again, too.

Ryan Baye, Legislative and Membership Lead

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More from the WACD Plant Materials Center

- **COVID-19 Update** – The WACD PMC continues to follow COVID-19 protocols and everyone remains healthy.
- **Plants are growing well** – PMC Manager Jim Brown reports that plants are growing well, weeds are under control plant pests and diseases remain at bay, and irrigation continues as needed. The photo below shows good germination in conifer seed beds.



More from the WACD Executive Office

- **WACD will be moving** – WACD's Olympia-based operation will be moving in August to a new location less than a mile from the Capital Campus. The office will be located on the ground floor of a newer building at [1219 11th Avenue SE](#). WACD's cost will be less than our total costs at the old location.
- **Don't miss your chance to express your thoughts on proposed changes to conservation district elections!** – In late May, the Conservation Commission posted [proposed changes to conservation district elections](#). The public comment period is now open

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- **Next regular WACD Board meeting September 15th** – Topics planned for the September Board meeting include: formally adopting the first three elements of the strategic plan (mission, vision, priorities) and approving the final three elements (goals, actions, scorecard) to go to members and partners for comment; and reviewing financial reserves and related policies.

Links to what we are reading!

Some news sources may be behind paywalls. Please let us know if an item is of interest but not available to you.

Jobs

- [Cascadia CD seeking Program Director](#)
- [Pend Oreille Conservation District seeking district manager](#)

Natural resources, agriculture

- [Washington expected to get millions more for parks, forests as Congress approves conservation bill](#) and [‘Most Significant Conservation Legislation’ In 50 Years: Great American Outdoors Act Approved](#)
- [21 state attorneys general sue over new Trump water rule](#)
- [‘We are dying.’ Tri-Cities breweries and wineries cry foul over state decision](#)
- [A nightmare scenario for farmers is happening right now](#)
- [2.4 million pounds and counting: How sending surplus crops to food banks is helping Washington farmers and hungry families](#)
- [Army returns for second round of removing derelict nets](#)
- [In Northwestern Washington, A Free-Flowing Middle Fork Nooksack River Is Just Months Away](#) and [Bang! Watch a Nooksack River dam finally coming down, freeing miles for fish habitat](#)
- [How Constructing ‘Log Jams’ Is Saving a Native Salmon](#)
- [Burger King's latest sustainability effort: reduce cow farts](#)

Diversity / equity / inclusion

- [NACD Board of Directors Statement on Diversity, Equity and Inclusivity](#)
- [It has always been Mount Tacoma. Now is the time to make Rainier name change official](#)
- [What would Voting Rights Act do? With John Lewis’ death, Democrats want it restored](#)

Pandemic news

- [DOH: COVID-19 on a path to 'runaway growth' in Washington state](#)

- [With COVID-19 cases increasing in Spokane County, isolation and quarantine periods are more important than ever](#)
- [Pandemic is spiking in South King County, governor says](#)
- [Washington state in an 'explosive situation,' as Spokane County sees exponential growth of cases](#)
- [Clark County small-business owners fear possible 'phase rollbacks'](#)
- ['We really need help': Coronavirus overwhelms rural Oregon](#)
- [California went from bending the curve to a major coronavirus surge. What happened?](#)

State government news

- [July 2020 Economic & Revenue Update](#)

Partners and Associations (suggestions welcome)

- [National Association of Conservation Districts \(NACD\)](#)
- [NACD Pacific Region page](#)
- [National Conservation District Employees Association](#)
- [National Association of State Conservation Agencies](#)
- [Washington Association of District Employees](#)
- [Washington Association of Land Trusts](#)
- [Washington State Conservation Commission](#)

Publications

- [District directory published by WACD](#)
- [NACD publications - find them here](#)

On a lighter note...

- [Ellensburg Rodeo to induct two new members](#)
- [3 reasons gratitude can help ease stress](#)

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