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Washington Association of Conservation Districts

5 Things to Know for April 15, 2021

1. WACD's budget priorities communicated

This week, WACD Executive Director Tom Salzer sent a letter to Washington State's budget reconciliation team members that outlined WACD's budget priorities in the reconciliation process. Read the letter at:

<https://hub.wadistricts.org/download/wacd-budget-reconciliation-priorities-for-fy-2021-2023/>

2. Congressional meetings this week

This week, an advocacy team from the Washington State Conservation Commission, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and WACD met with several congressional folks, including:

- Staff from Representative Marilyn Strickland's office
- Staff from Representative Kim Schrier's office
- Staff from Representative Derek Kilmer's office (with a brief visit with Rep. Kilmer between floor votes)
- Staff from Representative Dan Newhouse's office (with some phone time with Rep. Newhouse between floor votes)

All were open to our requests for support of conservation technical assistance (CTA) in the NRCS budget, support for CRP and SAFE acres, and support for increased access to broadband in rural areas. Several of the people we talked with in Washington D.C. gave us a distinct sense that a lot of pieces are moving on the USDA board right now. There seems to be a strong desire to see positive actions implemented in the near term for agriculture and for conservation.

3. Legislative flavor: The bills that died

WACD Legislative & Membership Lead Ryan Baye reports on six key bills that WACD tracked this session that failed to make it to the finish line. Read his Legislative Flavor for April 15th at:

<https://hub.wadistricts.org/2021/04/legislative-flavor-for-april-15th/>

4. WACD Board of Directors meeting April 19 at 6 pm

The WACD Board of Directors will hold a regular business meeting on Monday, April 19 at 6 pm. Documents associated with that meeting are available at:

<https://wadistricts.org/board-of-directors>

5. WACD PMC sales exceed last year

PMC Manager Jim Brown reports that fiscal year-to-date sales have exceeded sales from last

year. As sales wind down over the rest of April and May, it's possible we could set a new record!

Sadly, we are also losing our wonderful PMC Sales Manager, Jessica Oman. She has shepherded several positive changes to the PMC operation and we are definitely sad to see her go. We wish her well in her future endeavors.

Read Jim's report at:

<https://hub.wadistricts.org/2021/04/pmc-update-20210415/>

Dear weblinx,

Warm weather seems like a boon

The sudden warming we are experiencing feels very welcome after a somewhat dreary winter, but it's not good news for everyone. Even though the snowpack in the Cascades is looking robust, soil moisture in many dryland areas is low. In a few places, farmers don't have enough moisture to risk planting. I've also heard of some limitations on seed quantity (specifically: canola) so those who thought they might risk planting early could end up without replacement seed if things go wrong! I'll close this paragraph with a paraphrased quote I heard in conversation earlier this week: "*Farming -- it's not for the weak of heart!*"

Executive Corner

Any book lovers out there? My Executive Corner column speaks to an idea voiced by several folks for some kind of book-club-like reading and discussion group. I'm open to the idea. Read more at: <https://hub.wadistricts.org/2021/04/book-discussions/>.

WACD office hour on Friday, 11:00 am to noon

Tom and Ryan will host a joint virtual office hour on Friday, April 16 from 11 am to noon. WACD members and partners are welcome to join us and ask questions, share information, or discuss ideas! The floor is yours.

Topic: **WACD virtual office hour**

Time: **Apr 16, 2021 11:00 AM Pacific Time**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82539306043?pwd=Yml3b21ObkICZE1RZHE1UnpQeWk0UT09>

Meeting ID: 825 3930 6043

Passcode: 363766

Dial by your location

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

Meeting ID: 825 3930 6043

Passcode: 363766

What is NICRA? Learn about it during the next Community Call

If you Google NICRA you may run across the National Ice Cream Retailers Association. Ice cream is, unfortunately, not the topic of conversation at the next Community Call on April 30 at 9 am. NICRA stands for Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement.

The Washington State Conservation Commission's announcement says: "*Conservation districts that have been successful in establishing a NICRA with a federal agency will share their experiences and lessons learned. A NICRA is an agreement governing the amount of indirect/overhead an*

organization can claim on a grant from a federal agency."

Register for the meeting at:

https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/2560190149671478030?utm_source=thehub

Find a helpful infographic about NICRA at:

<https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/1861/Infographic - NICRA 2-14.pdf>

Committees

The **Joint Committee on Elections** (JCE) met this week. We should see notes from that meeting soon. Regarding the **Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion** (CDEI), WACD has received the awaited third proposal from a diversity, equity, and inclusion consultant to help facilitate CDEI meetings. Staff will make a recommendation to the WACD Board of Directors at their [April 19 board meeting](#).

Always yours for conservation,

Tom Salzer, Executive Director

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Partners are important!

Find our list of partners at <https://hub.wadistricts.org/wacd/partners-sponsors/partners/>.

- [Friends of NACD](#) – Your contributions provide funding for technical assistance grants to conservation districts.
- [Washington Conservation Society](#) – WCS is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization so your contributions are tax-deductible. If you make purchases through Amazon Smile, a portion of your purchases goes to WCS in support of their programs and initiatives.

We appreciate our great sponsors

Many thanks to our generous sponsors for helping us support Washington State's conservation districts. Find links to these organizations at <http://bit.ly/WACDSponsors>.



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