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Washington Association of Conservation Districts

5 Things to Know for April 22, 2021

The [Earth Day](#) Edition!

1. Budget expected Saturday from Legislature

The most current information we have is that the Legislature's budgets should be released to the public on Saturday. The House and Senate are expected to both vote on the final operating, capital, and transportation packages on Sunday, the last day of the scheduled 105-day session, and then adjourn before 11:59 on Sunday evening. Earlier talk of a possible special session seems to have dissipated. WACD does not expect a final opportunity to lobby on the budget. This means that any disappointments or additional needs while have to be addressed in the supplemental budget during the 2022 legislative session.

2. SAFE acres moved to CRP continuous signup

USDA Secretary Vilsack announced sweeping changes to CRP on April 21, 2021. Learn more at <https://hub.wadistricts.org/2021/04/usda-expands-crp-climate-change/>. There are still some wrinkles to be worked out regarding the SAFE acres cap but NACD is aware of this and is working on it.

3. Committees

- The **Finance Committee** has been meeting to review improvements to WACD's operations and as it prepares to receive the proposed budget for WACD. President Jeanette Dorner also appointed Barbara Bailey (Underwood Conservation District) to the Finance Committee. Welcome, Barbara! We will post key information on the Finance Committee page at <https://hub.wadistricts.org/wacd/committees/finance/> when it becomes available.
- The **Joint Committee on Elections** (JCE) continues to meet. Currently, the JCE is working on how to evaluate the many options under consideration. The JCE web page is available at <https://hub.wadistricts.org/wacd/committees/jce/>.
- On Monday, the WACD Board of Directors decided to move forward with DEI Management for facilitating the work of the **Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion** (CDEI). Following that selection, President Jeanette Dorner appointed members and advisors to the CDEI. Learn more about the CDEI and appointees at <https://hub.wadistricts.org/2021/04/wacd-forms-committee-on-diversity-equity-and-inclusion/>.

4. Legislative flavor: April 22, 2021

Ryan explains the importance of the 5-day and 20-day limits for signing legislation. This is an important provision for how much time the Governor has to process the legislation that arrives

on his desk. Read more at <https://hub.wadistricts.org/2021/04/legislative-flavor-for-april-22/>.

5. Grant CD building project

A month ago, Tom wrote about the [Spokane Conservation District's new facility](#). Today we share with you another great project: a new building for the Grant Conservation District that is coming to fruition through a partnership with their local fire district. Read the introduction to this project at <https://hub.wadistricts.org/2021/04/gcfd-5-conservation-district-start-on-new-facility-columbia-basin-herald/> or jump straight to the full story as published in the Columbia Basin Herald at <https://columbiabasinherald.com/news/2021/apr/20/fire-district-5-conservation-district-break-ground/>.

Dear weblinx,

Plant Materials Center update

WACD PMC Nursery Manager Jim Brown gives us some great photos along with his weekly update of work at the PMC. The big news, though, is that it is time for the annual **Cooler Blow-Out Sale!** This is your last chance this season to get some great deals from the PMC. Learn more in his report at <https://hub.wadistricts.org/2021/04/pmc-update-20210422/>.

Executive Corner

My Executive Corner column this week is about bringing back a "welcome wagon" approach for the many new people who will be joining our community in the near future. With district elections to be certified in May, we're sure to see some new supervisors. Appointments are also made by the Conservation Commission in May. And there are several conservation district manager spots that are currently in transition. Your personal welcome to new folks is impactful and can help to create positive, lasting relationships. Read my column at <https://hub.wadistricts.org/2021/04/welcoming-new-people/>.

Summer and annual meetings

NACD plans for their [2021 summer meeting](#) to be an in-person event in Chicago at the end of July. The combined [Pacific and Southwest Region meeting](#) is also planned as an in-person event in Wyoming at the end of August.

For the WACD annual meeting after Thanksgiving, WACD leadership has been hoping to have a clearer indication about holding it as an in-person meeting vs. a remote/virtual event. Our recently informal survey of some folks revealed there is still a range of desires among our members.

We've seen COVID-19 infection rates climb in a few counties and the news about more virulent forms of COVID-19 are very concerning. We have talked to the folks at the Hotel Murano in Tacoma about our contract and they are being very flexible.

Because of these factors, WACD will hold off on making a decision about how to present the WACD annual meeting until June or perhaps even July.

New posts on the Hub and Reading List

We have new content on the Hub! Find a passel of posts at <https://hub.wadistricts.org/posts/>. The Reading List also has new content. Find it at <https://raindrop.io/collection/15979489>.

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>

Always yours for conservation,

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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.

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