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Dear weblinx,

Here are 5 Things from WACD in brief:

1. May 17: On Monday evening, the WACD Board will hold a work session focused primarily on WACD's budget for FY 21-22.
2. May 19 & 20: The WSCC meets for strategic planning (Wednesday) and their regular meeting (Thursday).
3. WACD staff continues to prepare different approaches to the WACD annual meeting.
4. WACD staff is beginning to consider how to get ahead of some key issues before the next legislative session.
5. Looks like another record year for the WACD Plant Materials Center!

Scroll down for more!



5 Things to Know for May 13, 2021

1. WACD board to hold Monday evening work session

The WACD Board of Directors meets monthly, alternating between work sessions on specific topics and regular board meetings to conduct the business of the Association. On Monday evening, May 17, at 6:00 pm, the Board will hold their May work session. The focus of that work session will be preparing the Board to take action in June on WACD's proposed budget. Translation: this is where we unveil the first pass at a draft budget to the Board so we expect a lot of back-and-forth as we work through the proposal. This is an ideal time to check in if you are interested in WACD's budget! Learn more at <https://wadistricts.org/board-of-directors>.

2. WSCC to work on strategic plan and hold meeting

The Washington State Conservation Commission meets on Wednesday, May 19 to work on the Commission's strategic plan. On Thursday, May 20, the Commission will hold their regular meeting. Find more at <https://www.scc.wa.gov/commission-meetings>.

3. WACD annual meeting prep

WACD staff continues to work on options for WACD's annual meeting. We are considering a traditional in-person meeting, a wholly virtual meeting, and a hybrid that could consist of a virtual component and an in-person component. We also heard from districts that they would prefer a central location for the next meeting, so we are looking at venues in the Wenatchee-Ellensburg-Yakima area. We may have a proposal for the WACD Board to consider at their June meeting or this may take a bit longer. We will continue to report our progress on this topic, and

as always, we welcome your feedback at support@wadistricts.freshdesk.com.

4. Getting ahead of the next legislative session

Even though the dust hasn't fully settled from the recently concluded legislative session, we know of issues that are likely to be front-and-center in the sphere of our member's interests. Like what, you ask? How about these as starters: net ecological gain and conservation district elections! We would like to eventually develop a "conservation caucus" consisting of supportive legislators and partners. Having a group of key folks who understand conservation districts would be very helpful as we face future challenges. When we help our supporters succeed, we succeed.

If any of these topics resonate with you, or if you have other suggestions, please don't hesitate to get in touch with us.

5. PMC update for May 13, 2021

WACD Plant Materials Center Nursery Manager Jim Brown reports that it looks like the year will end very well. All of the PMC staff deserve kudos for their great performance during a pandemic, and kudos also go out to all of our customers who found ways to get plants to customers and in the ground despite the challenges that COVID threw at all of us. Well done, everyone! Read Jim's report at <https://hub.wadistricts.org/2021/05/pmc-update-20210513/>.

Executive Corner

One advantage to taking a week off from writing an Executive Corner article is it gives me more time to step back and reflect on how our members and partners are doing on a statewide basis. That kind of reflection is important. It gives us an opportunity to pause and think of something larger and greater than ourselves. Your Association is the amalgamation of 45 conservation districts and the many hundreds of people who make them effective.

We often call our group of people a community but I'm challenged to reconsider that after reading [There's a better metaphor for work than "family" or "team"](#). The author of that piece proposes that we might better be described as a village. It's an interesting read. While it is not the subject of this week's Executive Corner, I suspect it will pop up in future articles!

This week, [I discuss the crossroads our community has encountered](#) with pressure to change conservation district elections and how diversity, equity, and inclusion fit into conservation district work. And although I don't make the point in the article, underlying it is a personal life lesson: sometimes the strengths that get us to a place or position become the things that keep us from progressing. Said Hermann Hesse: *"Some of us think holding on makes us strong; but sometimes it is letting go."*

Committee work continues to advance

The Finance Committee continues to work on WACD's budget and on refreshing our internal controls. The Joint Committee on Elections meets regularly as it works on possible changes to how Washington's conservation district supervisors are elected. The Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion is getting closer as we approach agreement on the final contract language with our consultant.

The COVID situation is...confusing

Our hesitancy to commit to a method of delivering the WACD annual meeting is because we are just as confused about the status of COVID as you are. For example:

- [America is finally winning its fight against the coronavirus](#)
- [Five reasons why you don't need to panic about coronavirus variants](#)
- [Prepare for the Two States of Washington: Vaccinated and Unvaccinated](#)
- [Vaccine hesitancy continues in rural counties throughout Washington](#)

We will do the best we can, which is all we can ever expect of each other!

Always yours for conservation,

Tom Salzer, Executive Director
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Pass it on!

Please pass this newsletter on to others in our conservation community so they can subscribe and be as informed as you are!

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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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