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5 Things to Know for July 15, 2021

Dear weblinx,

Breaking News: Voluntary Conservation Approach Affirmed

This afternoon, the Washington State Conservation Commission discussed the voluntary approach to conservation and adopted the following motion:

To direct WSCC to participate in the state/tribal riparian process, consistent with agency mission, to conserve natural resources on all lands in Washington through technical assistance and voluntary, incentive based solutions in collaboration with conservation districts and other partners.

WACD appreciates the Conservation Commission's affirmation of a fundamental value of conservation district work that is described in [WACD's guiding principle #8](#):

We believe in, and uphold, the practice of locally-led, voluntary, incentive-based conservation.

1. District Directory: we need your help now

With [new conservation district board supervisors elected and appointed](#), and with several conservation district employee changes made or in process, it's time for WACD to update the statewide District Directory. We have sent requests for updated information to conservation districts but relatively few responses have been received. Please send your updates at your earliest convenience to Lori McLaughlin at lori@wacd.org. As soon as we get updates, we will publish an updated directory. You can check how your information is listed by reviewing an intermediate update that is available at <https://hub.wadistricts.org/resources/contacts/> behind the **WACD1942** password.

2. WACD Board of Directors work session Monday evening

Please consider joining the WACD Board of Directors at their monthly meeting on Monday, July 19 at 6:00 pm. The agenda with the Zoom link is published on the Board Meetings page at <https://wadistricts.org/board-of-directors>

3. It is shaping up to be another major fire season

All parts of Washington State are already well into wildfire season. While we often think of this as affecting mostly drier areas, wildfire can and does occur anywhere in Washington. For those who use Twitter, keep up with the latest news with this search link: <https://twitter.com/search?q=washington+wildfires+2021>

[InciWeb](#) (search for Washington) is a reliable source for large incidents, as is the [National Interagency Fire Center](#).

Meanwhile, we will continue to track fire reports in the WACD Reading List, available at <https://hub.wadistricts.org/resources/wacd-reading-list/>

4. Next Generation Leadership Institute applicants sought

A goal of NGLI - aka the [Next Generation Leadership Institute](#) - is for at least two future leaders in each region to apply. We have not yet had any NGLI applicants from Washington State. If you have any interest in becoming a better leader locally, regionally, and nationally, WACD strongly encourages currently appointed or elected conservation district officials to apply.

5. Stay tuned for ask from Joint Committee on Elections

Yesterday, the Joint Committee on Elections held a long meeting to seek consensus on an option to present to conservation districts for comment. A request for comment will be sent to conservation district board supervisors and managers. You will have the option of replying as an individual or as representing an official position of your board.

Look for more information to be released next week. As part of the outreach to conservation districts, WACD will be hosting a statewide Q&A webinar as the Joint Committee on Elections looks to refine its initial work.

From your Executive Director

Looking for Annual Conference Planning Team participants

It is that time when WACD staff begin investing focused time in preparing for the annual WACD conference and business meeting. We invite you to reach out to Ryan Baye at rbye@wadistricts.org to reserve a place on the ACPT. The first meeting is likely to be in early August.

Have you scheduled a summer tour with legislators?

Please let WACD know if you have scheduled a tour this summer with one or more legislators or other elected officials. We are happy to assist if so desired.

No Executive Corner this week!

It's been a week full of meetings and work groups. With two Executive Corner articles published last week, I am taking this week off from writing an article. Why, that's almost like a tiny vacation!

Always yours for conservation,

Tom Salzer, Executive Director
exec@wadistricts.org - (360) 999-5151 X101

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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.

Recent posts on the Hub

- [State of Washington Mason Conservation District Field Crew Member Job in Shelton, WA | Glassdoor](#)
- [Stewardship Forester – Cascadia Conservation District – Wenatchee, WA | FRAMES](#)
- [July 14, 2021 Drought Declaration – Washington State Department of Ecology](#)
- [Fires rage in several states as heat wave broils US West](#)
- [S. Oregon wildfire largest in nation | Timber | capitalpress.com](#)
- [Echoes Of 2015 As Fires Burn Across Okanogan County, Force Evacuations In Nespelem | Northwest Public Broadcasting](#)
- [Lightning sparked fire near Nespelem burned over 10,000 acres, 7 homes but town safely evacuated | The Spokesman-Review](#)
- [Addressing equity and underserved communities in USDA programs](#)
- [A Future for All in FFA | National FFA Organization](#)
- [Washington's wildfire season could be as damaging as worst in state history, analyst says | KOMO](#)

See the full list of Recent Posts at <https://hub.wadistricts.org/posts/>. Also see the articles WACD staff are reading at <https://hub.wadistricts.org/resources/wacd-reading-list/>.

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