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5 Things to Know for July 22, 2021

Dear weblinx,

1. NACD summer meeting is this weekend

WACD is sending National Director Doug Rushton and Legislative and Membership Lead Ryan Baye to represent us in Chicago at [NACD's summer meeting](#). This is an extra special meeting because it celebrates a return to the place where NACD was born 75 years ago. We are sure to hear reports from Doug and Ryan, and from NACD President Michael Crowder, following the Chicago meeting. Please keep them in your thoughts for a safe journey there and back again.

2. WACD Board of Directors meeting summary

During the WACD Board of Directors meeting on Monday evening, the Board welcomed Angela Reseland as the new WDFW Farm Bill Coordinator. The Board heard from several people from the Northeast Area Association of Conservation Districts about conditions and opportunities in their conservation districts. Our investment broker with Edward Jones briefed the Board on risk and WACD's investment performance over the past year. The Board received reports from partners and from the Tribal Relations Committee. Brief updates were presented about the Joint Committee on Elections and the Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. In closing, the Board discussed options for holding their December meeting. Board materials are viewable at <https://wacd1.box.com/s/lqyyzbcxss85b4q46r1os0xppl394elt>

3. Welcome Angela Reseland, new WDFW Farm Bill Coordinator

Many of you know Mike Kuttel Jr. well. Mike has been serving as WDFW's Farm Bill Coordinator, and his history within our conservation district family amplified his effectiveness. He is taking on new responsibilities so WDFW has brought in Angela Reseland to serve as their new Farm Bill Coordinator. Angela comes with NRCS experience as well as time as a watershed council executive director so she is well acquainted with the value provided by conservation districts. Please join us in making her feel welcome! And if you run across Mike, please also let him know that we value him, no matter what role he is in.

4. 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 rbaye@wadistricts.org to reserve a place on the ACPT. The first meeting is likely to be in early August.

5. Partner help needed

The Washington Cattle Feeders Association is looking for some help to assist producers with

mortality management. The recent heatwave impacted some producers very hard. If you know of any resources that might help, let us know or contact WCFA directly.

From your Executive Director

What a difference a week makes!

[What a difference a week makes](#) is the title of this week's Executive Corner. It's a rambling recounting of some of the bigger things that have been bouncing around inside my noggin. As a close friend said to me once: it's a busy place up there! My purposes in sharing the somewhat eclectic mix of topics are (a) simply to show that we are always thinking of our conservation district members and (b) that we are human, too, just like you.

I once had a boss in the mining industry who was nicknamed "Fish Tank" by some of his staff because he was always staring off into space, looking a bit like a goldfish in an aquarium looking back at you. When asked why he was gazing off in the distance all the time, he paused, pulled his pipe out his mouth, and said: because I'm looking at the future! I find myself acting more and more like Fish Tank as the years go by -- staring off into the distance as I ruminate about our conservation district future -- and some of that tone emerges in the Executive Corner this week.

Reminder: check in with your legislators

This is usually a great time of year to have a relaxed conversation with your legislators. However, for those in fire-prone landscapes, you and your legislators may be a bit stressed right now. That also means this is a great moment to remind your legislators that you are on the job, serving your community, and that you appreciate their support.

Always yours for conservation,

Tom Salzer, Executive Director
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