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Washington Association of Conservation Districts

5 Things to Know for August 19, 2021

Dear weblinx,

1. Insurance for conservation districts through NACD?

Stay tuned for more information in the coming weeks about an insurance program to be made available nationally through the National Association of Conservation Districts. We hear that final details are being hammered out now.

The program will provide a guided portal to health care packages and may also include access to life insurance and other coverages. The planned deadline to bring this forward to conservation districts is October 1, so the timing should fit well with end-of-year insurance choices.

This has been a dream of many for a long time so it is heartening to see it emerging through the good work of your national association. WACD will keep you posted as we learn more.

2. WACD awards: are you ready to nominate people?

Those who read WACD's weekly newsletter are getting a head start on next week's announcement regarding WACD's annual awards. This sneak peek will give you a jumpstart on writing nominations for someone you believe worthy of recognition. Get those creative juices flowing and be on the lookout next week for nominating instructions.

3. WSCC annual photo contest is open!

The 8th Annual CD Photo Contest was launched on August 13th and is open to any CD employee or supervisor. Hosted by the Commission's Communications, Partnership Building, and Outreach (or CPO) Committee, the best shutterbugs will receive a scholarship to the 2022 WADE Conference. There are five categories this year, all photos must be submitted by September 10th. [Please visit the online form for more information.](#)

4. Plant Materials Center update

Plant orders continue to come in at a fast clip. Irrigation at the nursery is decreasing to drought stress plants. Through the Skagit Conservation District, drone photos and video were collected which we'll share after we get them processed.

The big focus right now is seed collection. This week's PMC update has a couple of nice photos for you at <https://hub.wadistricts.org/2021/08/pmc-update-20210819/>.

5. Washington Conservation Society reminders

- **July 1st:** The beginning of the Washington Conservation Society (WCS) fiscal year is July 1st so dues are due! Information on memberships can be found [here](#).
- **September 22nd:** The next meeting WCS is scheduled for **September 22nd** at 8 am. [Contact WCS](#) for information on how to join the meeting.
- **November 1st:** WCS is accepting Mini-Grant Applications. A link to the grant application and ranking rubric can be found [here](#). Applications are due **November 1st**. *You must be a current WCS member to apply.*
- **November 1st:** [Leaving a Legacy](#) entries are also due **November 1st**. WCS members are here to help you create your tribute; please contact WCS today to get started.

From your Executive Director

How WACD communicates

WACD does not yet have a coordinated communication plan. What we do have is a collection of ways we share information, seek feedback, interact with others, and conduct business.

Having a collection of communication tools without a plan can create confusion. I know this because some of our people have told me so. In an effort to reduce that confusion, this week's Executive Corner column describes the main tools used by WACD: [How WACD Communicates](#). Perhaps this will spark more energy for creating a communication plan!

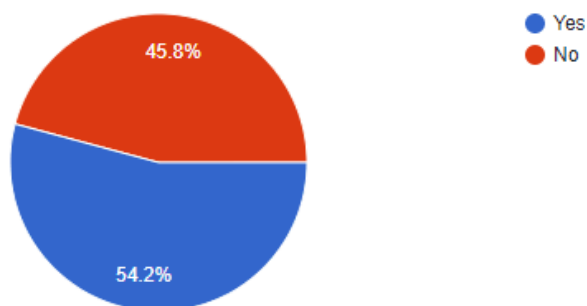
District Directory survey

A few weeks ago we asked for feedback on this question: **should we include personal contact information or not in the District Directory?** With just 24 responses received, we see that more than one-half of respondents would prefer that we not include contact information in the publicly viewable District Directory.

The deadline for responses is August 25 so there is still time for your position to guide WACD. Here is the survey form link: <https://forms.gle/YXLfEKjL3wAK2TSH8>

Should WACD stop publishing personal contact information in the WACD District Directory?
(We would make personal contact information available to authorized community members and through valid public records requests.)

24 responses



Information from MRSC

A trusted source for information about many local government topics is MRSC. They maintain a

very helpful page about COVID: [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Resources for Local Governments](#).

While we're talking about MRSC, check out their blog post about [using a consent agenda to streamline your meetings](#).

Information from CDG

The Center for Digital Government reported on recent research about how state and local governments responded to COVID by making sweeping changes to how they operate internally and in serving the public. Their [report in PDF format](#) is interesting and informative.

Weekly thought

I'm not sure if this is inspirational or chastising. It feels like a bit of both to me, but it also resonates because every day I learn something new.

"Lessons are repeated until they are learned. A lesson will be presented to you in various forms until you have learned it. When you have learned it, you can go on to the next lesson. Learning lessons does not end. There's no part of life that doesn't contain its lessons. If you're alive, that means there are still lessons to be learned."

Source: [If Life Is a Game, These Are the Rules](#)

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.

Recent Posts on the Hub

- [Plant Materials Center update: August 19, 2021](#)
- [How WACD Communicates](#)
- [How to Work with Someone Who Creates Unnecessary Conflict | HBR](#)
- [Don't Let Internal Controls Slip at Your Nonprofit Organization! | Blue Avocado](#)
- [Snohomish CD seeking Communications & Outreach Program Manager](#)
- [Great Managers Matter Now More Than Ever | Psychology Today](#)
- [Plant Materials Center update: August 12, 2021](#)
- [Washington Governor Orders State Employees, Health Care Workers To Get COVID-19 Vaccine | Northwest Public Broadcasting](#)

- [My Transition from Management to Leadership](#)
- [Recruiting for Administrative Assistant: Lewis CD](#)

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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