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Washington Association of Conservation Districts

5 Things to Know for September 16, 2021

Dear weblinx,

Every year fall our lives seem to get busier. This year is no different:

- September: Conservation districts develop resolutions.
- October: Area associations of conservation districts meet to debate resolutions and decide which ones will advance to the state level.
- November: WACD presents their 2021 annual conference for member conservation districts and partners. This year, WACD's annual business meeting will be held on the last day of November, at which voting members will elect officers and adopt resolutions.

Now on to our top Five Things for your consideration this week!

1. Conservation Commission acts on election reforms

The [Washington State Conservation Commission](#) held a [regular meeting](#) today and on the agenda was a slate of four recommendations for conservation district elections developed by the [Joint Committee on Elections](#) (JCE). The recommendations approved by majority vote of the Commission are:

- Part 1: Conduct elections every other year, rather than every year as done currently.
- Part 2: Extend supervisor terms (for both appointed and elected) from the current three-year term to a four-year term.
- Part 3: Conduct district elections during one Conservation Month.
- Part 4: Allow conservation districts the option to go on the general election ballot.

The Commission's action launches staff work to draft appropriate language to effect those changes. Remaining unresolved is when to advance these changes with legislators. Our plan is to shop these ideas with legislators as we ramp up to the 2022 legislative session to get their feedback. Their thoughts will help inform whether we need to move these changes forward in 2022 or if these items should be considered in 2023.

WACD appreciates the many hours invested by JCE members over several months to reach consensus on recommendations they felt would be meaningful and supportable.

2. WACD Board of Directors meets on Monday, September 20th

The WACD Board of Directors will hold a regular business meeting on Monday, September 20th at 6 pm.

The agenda includes:

- Hearing from districts in the Northwest Area Association of Conservation Districts.
- The Finance Committee will ask for the creation of an Investment Special Committee and report on next steps in a Revolving Fund Study per resolution 2020-01.
- Recommendations of the Tribal Relations Committee will be considered, as will the creation of an Associate Supervisor of the Year Award.
- The Board will discuss potential WACD bylaw changes and act on necessary requirements for the 2021 WACD annual business meeting.
- Staff will report on the survey of members regarding the WACD District Directory.

Find details of the September 20th meeting at <https://wadistricts.org/board-of-directors>.

3. Did you know there is a tribal partnership award?

The WACD [Tribal Relations Committee](#) wants to call your attention to the **Conservation District/Tribal Partnership Award** that recognizes a successful CD-tribal partnership resulting in successful regional conservation. This award was created in 2014. Since then, the following tribes and districts have been recognized for their partnership work:

- 2020: Quileute Tribe / Clallam CD
- 2019: Lummi Nation / Whatcom CD
- 2017: Skokomish Tribe / Mason CD
- 2016: Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama / North Yakima CD
- 2015: Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe / Clallam CD
- 2014: Daryl Williams and Terry Williams, Tulalip Tribes / Snohomish CD

The [award application period for all WACD awards is open](#) until October 29th and we invite your nominations.

4. Jobs jobs jobs: local, state, and national!

There are several openings in conservation districts, at the state level, and with the National Association of Conservation Districts. Each recruitment presents an opportunity to increase the professionalism and capacity of our conservation delivery system. See the opportunities at:

- <https://hub.wadistricts.org/topics/jobs/>
- <https://www.scc.wa.gov/job-postings>
- <https://www.nacdnet.org/get-involved/careers-and-internships/>

5. Plant Materials Center update

PMC sales remain strong, staff remain healthy, and fall weather continues to make its presence felt. Irrigation is tapering off while weeding seems to be an ever-present activity. Seed collection continues for Red Osier Dogwood, Pacific Crabapple, and Twinberry. Read the full update at <https://hub.wadistricts.org/2021/09/pmc-update-20210916/> and catch up on previous updates at <https://hub.wadistricts.org/topics/wacd/pmc/>.

In other news...

NACD Partners with Mercer to Offer Insurance Benefits

NACD is excited to announce a new partnership with Mercer to offer the all-new NACD benefits program. With a Gold Level or higher NACD membership, you will have access to this new

benefits platform, which will provide you with a comprehensive range of important benefits including medical, dental, and vision, as well as auto/home and cyber coverage.

You will be able to shop, customize your benefits, and receive multiple quotes for coverage on an easy-to-use online platform. Once you've selected your benefits, you can easily enroll online.

Be on the lookout for more information! This new program will launch on Monday, October 4. More details will be sent to you in October about how to access this new platform and obtain customized quotes just for you.

About WACD awards

Every year, WACD recognizes special accomplishments by individuals in natural resource conservation in recognition of the outstanding work accomplished by those in our community. Nominations can be made by anyone, and usually take only a few minutes to write.

We have many awards available to help recognize and celebrate people in all aspects of our conservation work:

1. **Eugene Schloz Outstanding Supervisor Award** – An active district supervisor or associate supervisor who made an especially valuable contribution to district conservation programs or to the state conservation movement.
2. **Wayne Reid "Young Tiger" Award** – A supervisor or associate supervisor with six years or less who has made an extraordinary effort to assist their district to meet its goals in a short period of time.
3. **Wildlife Farmer of the Year Award** – A cooperater actively engaged in farming, ranching or forestry on over 50 Acres.
4. **Wildlife Steward of the Year** – A cooperater actively engaged in farming, ranching or forestry on less than 50 Acres.
5. **Conservation District/Tribal Partnership Award** – A successful CD-tribal partnership that demonstrates successful regional conservation.
6. **Special Service Award** – For anyone who has provided assistance on a CD-sponsored project and has made an outstanding achievement and contribution in the field of conservation.
7. **Vim Wright "Building Bridges" Award** – A person within the arena of conservation working to foster understanding, partnership, and greater conservation through collaboration.
8. **Conservation Educator of the Year award**
9. **Conservation District of the Year**

Find the form you need to nominate someone at <https://wadistricts.org/wacd-awards>. There is no better time than today to get the ball rolling toward important, welcome recognition.

Area Association meetings are just around the corner

If September is conservation district resolution time, October is annual meeting time for six Area Associations. Look for more information to come from the respective host districts soon as they adapt their plans to new COVID restrictions.

- Wednesday, October 13th – SW Area Meeting hosted by Grays Harbor CD
- Thursday, October 14th – NW area Meeting hosted by Skagit CD

- Tuesday, October 19th – NC Area Meeting hosted by Okanogan CD
- Wednesday, October 20th – NE Area Meeting hosted by Ferry CD
- Tuesday, October 26th – SE Area Meeting hosted by Walla Walla County CD
- Wednesday, October 27th – SC Area Meeting hosted by South Yakima CD

We've published these dates on our [Hub calendar](#) and on [WACD's public website](#). We've also started a [central Hub portal for individual Area Association meetings](#) which we will populate with information as it comes in.

From your Executive Director...

Reflection

My Executive Corner column this week is about the sense of belonging many of us have in our conservation community...but some of our people don't always feel this way. I explore this idea in a reflection titled [Trust, respect, and inclusion build belonging and community](#). One quote from that piece is from Frank Lloyd Wright: *"The thing always happens that you really believe in; and the belief in a thing makes it happen."*

Weekly thought

Our relationships are crucial to our success. This week, I offer a quote from one of my favorite motivators, [James Clear](#):

"Double down on your best relationship. It's the investment with the highest return."

Always yours for conservation,

Tom Salzer, Executive Director
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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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Recent Posts on the Hub

- [Plant Materials Center update: September 16, 2021](#)
- [NACD Pacific Region seeks district feedback on work plan](#)
- [Trust, respect, and inclusion build belonging and community](#)
- [San Juan Islands CD accepting applications for Senior Natural Resource Planner](#)

- [Newly Issued COVID Proclamation 20-25.16](#)
- [Plant Materials Center update: September 9, 2021](#)
- [Whidbey Island CD seeks Natural Resource Educator](#)
- [Palouse CD seeks Research and Monitoring Specialist](#)
- [Cascadia CD seeks Project Coordinator II](#)
- [Conservation Commission seeks new Executive Director](#)

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/>.

We appreciate our great sponsors

Many thanks to our generous sponsors for helping us support Washington State's conservation districts. Links: <https://hub.wadistricts.org/wacd/partners-sponsors/sponsors/>



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