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## 5 Things to Know for September 23, 2021

Dear weblinx,

Meetings of Washington's six area associations of conservation districts are next month. In November, WACD holds the 2021 annual conference for member districts and partners.

### 1. Not much time left to wish Dr. Carol Smith well

Carol Smith, the well-respected and much-lauded Executive Director of the Washington State Conservation Commission, is retiring. Her last day in the office will be October 15, 2021. If you were thinking of sending her a thank you note, now is the time.

WACD is very appreciative of the leadership, commitment to local conservation, and grace that Carol exhibited during her tenure. She will be deeply missed.

While the Commission seeks their next leader, Kirk Robinson will serve as their Interim Executive Director. Kirk has filled this role before so we know the Commission will be in good hands during this change in leadership.

### 2. NEW THIS YEAR - Associate Supervisor Award

At their September 20th meeting, the WACD Board of Directors voted to create a new yearly award recognizing the contributions of one district Associate Supervisor (or equivalent). If there is an associate supervisor you know who deserves a little appreciation, please consider nominating them.

Find the nomination form for all WACD awards on our website at <https://wadistricts.org/wacd-awards>.

### 3. WACD Board of Directors meeting summary available

Official minutes will come later but for now, we have unofficial notes available for the September 20th Board of Directors meeting. Highlights include:

- An investment policy working group will be formed under the Finance Committee.
- Recommendations of the WACD Tribal Relations Committee were approved.
- Southwest Area Director Dean Longrie brought forward the desirability of an Associate Supervisor of the Year award. A motion to create such an award was approved.
- Potential changes to WACD's bylaws were discussed and approved for presentation to conservation districts at area meetings.

- The Board adopted a resolution that acknowledges the legal necessity of providing a virtual option for the 2021 WACD Annual Business Meeting. The Board also discussed potential annual conference session topics and offered suggestions.
- WACD staff received feedback from the Board about removing personal contact information from the WACD District Directory.
- The meeting closed with many people expressing their gratitude to Dr. Carol Smith for her time as the Washington State Conservation Commission's Executive Director.

Read more at <https://hub.wadistricts.org/2021/09/september-board-meeting-well-attended/>.

#### 4. Comments requested on NACD Pacific Region annual plan

You may not be aware that the NACD Pacific Region folks have been working hard to craft their first strategic plan. An outgrowth of that work is the development of an annual work plan. Doug Rushton (WACD's National Director), who chairs the Pacific Region group, asks for your comments on the work plan.

Read more at <https://hub.wadistricts.org/2021/09/pacific-region-feedback-work-plan/>.

#### 5. Plant Materials Center update

PMC sales remain surprisingly strong, perhaps because of pent-up demand after last year's COVID-related disruptions on restoration projects. Nursery plants are grown to size and entering dormancy. Live willow stakes are being harvested for some customers with fall projects.

Read more at <https://hub.wadistricts.org/2021/09/pmc-update-20210923/>.

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### In other news...

#### Deadline nears for 2021 Hugh Hammond Bennett Award Nominations

The National Conservation Planning Partnership (NCP) is accepting nominations for the **2021 Hugh Hammond Bennett Award for Conservation Excellence!**

There are two award categories:

- The **Producer Award** will be presented to a producer who demonstrates a commitment to conservation planning, pioneering new opportunities and leadership in the community. The local field office staff that provides assistance to the producer will also receive recognition.
- The **Conservation Planner Award** is independent of the producer award and will be given to an individual who demonstrates a high standard of conservation planning and implementation for customers as well as sharing his/her expertise with others.

All nominations must be fully completed and submitted by October 1, 2021. [Learn more...](#)

#### Deadline for WACD award submissions is October 29th

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. **NEW THIS YEAR – Associate Supervisor Award** – A conservation district Associate Supervisor (or equivalent) who has made an especially valuable contribution to district conservation programs or to the state conservation movement. All associate supervisors (or equivalent position) appointed by their local conservation district are eligible to receive this award. 2021 will be the first time WACD recognizes the contributions of associate supervisors to our community.
2. **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.
3. **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.
4. **Wildlife Farmer of the Year Award** – A cooperater actively engaged in farming, ranching or forestry on over 50 Acres.
5. **Wildlife Steward of the Year** – A cooperater actively engaged in farming, ranching, or forestry on less than 50 Acres.
6. **Conservation District/Tribal Partnership Award** – A successful CD-tribal partnership that demonstrates successful regional conservation.
7. **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.
8. **Vim Wright “Building Bridges” Award** – A person within the arena of conservation working to foster understanding, partnership, and greater conservation through collaboration.
9. **Conservation Educator of the Year award**
10. **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 coming up fast

October is annual meeting time for the six area associations of conservation districts in Washington State. 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

Last week, we published the link to a central portal to this information on the WACD Hub. This week, we simplified the web address a bit and that means the URL published last week is out of date. Visit <https://hub.wadistricts.org/annual/2021meetings/areas/> to find more information about area association annual meetings. The portal is a work in progress and will be updated regularly in September and October.

## From your Executive Director...

### Reflection

Last week's Executive Corner column was hard for me to write. There have been times in my 30-year tenure in our community when I felt I did not belong. I'm letting that column stand for a second week because while many of us have a strong sense of belonging in our conservation community, some of our people may not feel like they belong. I explore this in my 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

Physicists talk about the weak nuclear force and the strong nuclear force. The weak force is expressed in the form of radioactive decay. The strong force holds protons and neutrons together as the nuclei in atoms.

In our conservation community, we are bound together in many ways. We often find it easier to see the disruptive weak forces that bring decay and dissipation rather than the strong forces that bring us together and hold us together. As we prepare to come together in area meetings, and then in WACD annual conference sessions and the annual business meeting, remembering this quote from Edward Kennedy seems entirely appropriate:

*"What divides us pales in comparison to what unites us."*

### 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.

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## Recent Posts on the Hub

- [Plant Materials Center update: September 23, 2021](#)
- [September Board meeting well attended](#)
- [District dues update: September 20, 2021](#)
- [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](#)

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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