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## 5 Things to Know for October 7, 2021

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### ◆ We bid adieu to Senator Ann Rivers ◆



*ED Tom Salzer in Senator River's office  
Photo by Zorah Oppenheimer*

After more than a decade of service, [Senator Ann Rivers is stepping away from the Washington State Senate](#). She joined the Senate in 2012 after serving as a State Representative beginning in 2010.

[Senator Rivers](#) has been a great partner for local conservation, working directly with the Clark Conservation District on important program support. WACD thanks her for her service to conservation and we wish her well in her new endeavors.

From the Clark Conservation District comes this praise and well wishes:

*As we say at Clark CD, Ann Rivers is a friend of the District. She believes in locally-led conservation and worked with Clark CD to champion those beliefs. Clark CD's Board and Staff wish Senator Ann Rivers the absolute best as she moves on to her new position with the City of Longview.*

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### Dear weblinx,

We are happy that the weather has turned, providing a welcome respite from heat and drought for many. The intermediate-term forecasts suggest that this cooler, wetter weather is going to be with us for a while.

It is also Area Association meeting month! We are looking forward to visiting with many of our members over the next several weeks. October is our lead-in to WACD's annual conference in November. We are deeply informed by the conversations that will occur in October so we hope you will be able to participate in your area association meeting.

### 1. Find Area Association meeting information in one place

WACD will be collating meeting information for area associations at this URL:

<https://hub.wadistricts.org/annual/2021meetings/areas/>

That link goes to a page with multiple tabs. Click the **Dates** tab to see when all of the area meetings will be held. Click the **Resolutions** tab for the growing list of resolutions submitted to WACD. Individual area meetings are under their own tabs.

We have added the work products from the Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and the Joint Committee on Elections under the **Committees** tab. We encourage you to review these in preparation for discussion at area association meetings. Find those work products at: <https://hub.wadistricts.org/annual/2021meetings/areas/#committees>

You can also find the area meetings page via the top menu on the [WACD Hub](#):

*WACD >> Annual Meetings >> 2021 Meetings >> 2021 Area Association Meetings*

## 2. WACD annual conference schedule is coming together

**Registration for the 2021 WACD annual conference in November is now open at:**

<https://hub.wadistricts.org/annual/2021meetings/conference/>. The cost will be the same as last year: \$50 per person or \$150 per organization. The per-organization rate is a great deal as there is no limit to the number of your people who can attend.

WACD staff has been working on firming up the conference schedule for the nine sessions to be held in November. View evolving information on the conference portal at:

<https://hub.wadistricts.org/annual/2021meetings/conference/>

The **Sessions** tab contains the draft conference schedule. This is a draft schedule so you can expect that it will change some over the next few weeks. We will be adding bios for presenters under the **Speakers** tab.

The **Sponsors** tab will house our 2021 conference sponsors. We are starting our push this week for sponsorships. Every entity or partner who helps to sponsor the annual conference helps reduce the cost to members and supports WACD's work on behalf of members. We invite you to reach out to your own network to help us find new sponsors. We've done a good job of keeping sponsors in front of our members all year. Our letter to sponsors is available for download at: <https://hub.wadistricts.org/annual/2021meetings/conference/#sponsors>

You might also notice the **Awards** tab on the annual conference page. Applications are due by October 29th. We would love to help recognize people with our statewide awards so please do get those applications in. Visit <https://wadistricts.org/wacd-awards> for more information.

Here's a graphic representation of progress so far in putting the conference together for you:

Assemble planning team: 100%

Build web structure to house conference information: 100%

Create registration packet: 85%

Finalize session topics and presenters: 50%

Obtain sponsors to reduce member cost: 20%

Publicize annual conference: 10%

### 3. WACD annual business meeting details

There is the **annual conference** and then there is the **annual meeting of members**. The annual conference is where we come together to learn and to renew the bonds that help us work effectively, collectively. Those learning sessions will occur on nine dates in the first three weeks of November.

The WACD annual meeting – also called the **annual business meeting** – comes after the conference. It is where voting members discuss and decide resolutions and elect WACD officers. There will also be an election for the central Washington commissioner position on the Washington State Conservation Commission.

Despite COVID-related restrictions on gatherings, WACD still plans for an in-person business meeting on Tuesday, November 30th at the Hotel Murano in Tacoma. Masking and social distancing will be required. (For those who do not wish to attend in person, we will provide a means for you to participate virtually.)

WACD will provide a **free banquet for in-person attendees** on Monday, November 29th. The purpose of this is to renew relationships and resume the fellowship that makes our work together so productive. Tuesday's meals (breakfast, break, lunch) are not free. WACD will charge \$110 per person to cover those expenses. There won't be a charge to participate virtually.

A link to reserve rooms at the Hotel Murano can be found under the Hotel tab at: <https://hub.wadistricts.org/annual/2021meetings/business/>

Note that WACD will comply with any new restrictions that prevent us from holding an in-person meeting.

### 4. Next week features several meetings!

The **Southwest and Northwest area associations** meet next week:

- Wednesday, October 13th – SW Area Meeting (*virtual*) hosted by Grays Harbor CD
- Thursday, October 14th – NW Area Meeting (*virtual*) hosted by Skagit CD

Find area association meeting details on the Hub at:

<https://hub.wadistricts.org/annual/2021meetings/areas/>

Also on Wednesday, October 13th is the next Building Better Leadership and Management Learning Community session, titled: **What is My Lane? What are the key elements of managing a District that you need to know.** [Find the details on the CTD website.](#) Questions? Contact Nichole Embertson at [nembertson@whatcomcd.org](mailto:nembertson@whatcomcd.org).

Also on Wednesday is a **quarterly VSP monitoring symposium** from 9 am to 11:30 am. Register at: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/786299665767853069>. Questions? Contact Levi Keesecker at [lkeesecker@scc.wa.gov](mailto:lkeesecker@scc.wa.gov).

## 5. Thank you to our members

As of this morning, 43 of 45 conservation districts have paid annual dues to WACD. On behalf of the Board of Directors, our staff, and our entire membership: **thank you.** The strength WACD has in serving as your collective voice comes from you and we appreciate your support.

Conservation districts with paid-up dues at the start of the November 30th annual business meeting are eligible to vote in matters that come before the Association, per Part III Section 1(a) of the [WACD bylaws](#):

*Every conservation district whose dues are fully-paid for the current fiscal year at the commencement of the WACD Annual Meeting shall be deemed to be a member of this Association, unless membership is expressly declined by the conservation district by written notice to the Association.*

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## In other news...

### 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**
2. **Eugene Schloz Outstanding Supervisor Award**
3. **Wayne Reid “Young Tiger” Award**
4. **Wildlife Farmer of the Year Award**
5. **Wildlife Steward of the Year**
6. **Conservation District/Tribal Partnership Award**
7. **Special Service Award**
8. **Vim Wright “Building Bridges” Award**
9. **Conservation Educator of the Year award**
10. **Conservation District of the Year**

Learn more and find the award form by visiting <https://wadistricts.org/wacd-awards>. There is no better time than today to get the ball rolling toward important, welcome recognition.

### Area Association meetings start next week

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

If you haven't received information about your area association meeting, or perhaps have misplaced it, WACD is collected information for all six area meetings on the WACD Hub at: <https://hub.wadistricts.org/annual/2021meetings/areas/>

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## From your Executive Director...

### Reflection

My reflection this week is simply several brief comments that might be best described as ramblings. I talk about urban agriculture, equity and grants, committee work products, and whether the Legislature will meet virtually in 2022. I mention thanking legislators and reprise our MVP, aka WACD's mission, vision, and principles. Read [Ramblings from the past week](#).

### Weekly thought

As I think about the interesting interplay in our community between the need for unity as we seek support and the reality that our conservation community consists of a wonderful mix of unique characters, I recall a favorite quote from Rudyard Kipling that hits this note just right:

***"For the strength of the Pack is the Wolf, and the strength of the Wolf is the Pack."***

Always yours for conservation,

Tom Salzer, Executive Director  
[exec@wadistricts.org](mailto: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.
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## Recent Posts on the Hub

- [Plant Materials Center update: October 7, 2021](#)
- [Ramblings from the past week](#)
- [DNR Pre-Sales Operations Manager / Natural Resource Specialist 5](#)
- [DNR Service Forestry Program Manager / Environmental Planner 5](#)
- [Conservation Commission says: join our team!](#)
- [You are invited to the 2021 Farm and Food Symposium, Nov 5-6](#)
- [The Four Principles of Purpose-Driven Board Leadership](#)
- [Early Career to Mid-Level Biologist or Environmental Planner – Yakima](#)
- [Plant Materials Center update: September 30, 2021](#)
- [New book: The 5 Languages of Appreciation in the Workplace](#)

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/>



## Pass it on!

Please pass this newsletter on to others in our conservation community so they can subscribe and be as informed as you are!

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