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5 Things to Know for October 21, 2021

♣ Four of six area association meetings are completed ♣

Dear weblinx,

It's very hard to believe that the WACD annual conference starts in just 12 days. Where did the time go? [Registration is open](#) at the same price points as last year: \$50/person or \$150 for your entire organization. We look forward to your participation!

1. Welcome to Kirk Robinson, WSCC Interim Executive Director

Kirk Robinson started this week as the Interim Executive Director for the Washington State Conservation Commission. We feel fortunate to have an Interim ED with extensive experience in working with the Conservation Commission and with the issues that are important to conservation districts. Welcome back, Kirk!

2. Another week of area meetings = more resolutions

This week, the [North Central Area Association](#) (NCAA) and [Northeast Area Association](#) (NEAA) held their annual meetings. Conservation districts in the NCAA proposed four resolutions and all four were passed. The NEAA folks proposed two resolutions, both of which passed.

At the NEAA meeting, the Thurston Conservation District resolution on sustainable funding was endorsed by voting members. That resolution was similarly endorsed by the Northwest Area Association and the NCAA.

The titles of resolutions adopted at the NCAA and NEAA meetings are listed below, and all [proposed and adopted resolutions are available on the Hub](#):

- NCAA - WACD Sustainable Funding Committee
- NCAA - Stable Funding for CD Wildfire Risk Assessments
- NCAA - Reverse New FSA Emergency Conservation Program Rules on Fencing
- NCAA - Support WA NRCS Approval for Cost Share for Soil Carbon Amendment
- NEAA - Lincoln County CD - Establish Area Cost Share Rates
- NEAA - Stevens County CD - Livestock Riparian Water Rights
- NEAA - WACD Sustainable Funding Committee

3. Two new Area Directors so far

With four of six area association meetings completed, two new area directors have been elected so far. **Welcome to Lisa and Marshall!**

- Southwest Area Association: Lisa Zaborac (new) and Marshall Stowe (new)

- Northwest Area Association: Alan Chapman (reelected)
- North Central Area Association: John Preston (reelected)
- Northeast Area Association: Jon Birnbaum (reelected)

4. Plant Materials Center update

Sales continue to roll in, says WACD PMC Nursery Manager Jim Brown. Live stake harvest continues and fall seed planting is underway. We are waiting for dormancy, and [Jim's update explains more about that](#).

Have you seen a seed drill planting into a clean field? Check out this brief video from the WACD Plant Materials Center! Link: <https://vimeo.com/637568505>



5. What happens next on diversity, equity, and inclusion?

WACD's **Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion** (CDEI) recently completed their work on addressing Resolution 2020-05 and Resolution 2020-06. [My reflection this week describes how we got here](#) and what comes next.

You'll find the CDEI's two work products (a draft policy statement and a set of recommendations) on the Hub. We posted these before area association meetings started so that the materials would be available for all member conservation districts to review and discuss. See: <https://hub.wadistricts.org/annual/2021meetings/areas/#reports>

WACD invites your feedback on the CDEI's work products, and on the Joint Committee on Elections report, and on the five possible changes to WACD bylaws. Your comments help inform the WACD Board of Directors before they take up these topics at their November 15 regular Board meeting. **Please send your feedback, comments, and ideas by Friday, November 12 to feedback@wacd.org**

In other news...

Deadline for WACD award submissions is October 29th

The **deadline for WACD awards is fast approaching**. We have many awards available to help recognize and celebrate people in all aspects of conservation work, including a new award this

year to recognize an outstanding Associate Supervisor. 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.

Reminder: RCPP webinars

The Natural Resources Conservation Service in Washington is offering **four informational webinars** to discuss the nuances of RCPP under the 2018 Farm Bill. People are encouraged to attend the series in preparation for the Fiscal Year 2022 RCPP funding announcement, which is expected to release in Fall 2021. [Learn more...](#)

Session Schedule:

- **Oct. 18, 3 to 4 p.m.** "An Introduction to RCPP," hosted by Laura Williams, RCPP State Coordinator
- **Oct. 25, 3 to 4 p.m.** "RCPP & Conservation Easements," hosted by Alexandra James, RCPP Easement Liaison
- **Nov. 1, 3 to 4 p.m.** "RCPP Watershed & Public Works," hosted by Laura Williams, RCPP State Coordinator
- **Nov. 8, 3 to 4 p.m.** "Developing an RCPP Proposal," hosted by Laura Williams, RCPP State Coordinator

Envirothon needs items for auction before November 15

Donations accepted until November 15: Each year, item donations are needed for the Washington State Envirothon Auction at the Washington Association of Conservation District (WACD) Annual Meeting. Items such as gift certificates, signed memorabilia, event tickets, outdoor gear, themed baskets, etc. are welcome donations.

Envirothon auction will be online November 22 - December 7: This year's auction will be virtual and all proceeds from the auction will support the Washington State Envirothon team on their road to Nationals. Washington State regional competitions will be combined with the state competition this year in a virtual format. Your financial support will help students prepare themselves for this year's environmental competition and to be potential future leaders in the environmental and natural resources field.

Learn more at <https://hub.wadistricts.org/annual/2021meetings/conference/#envirothon>

From your Executive Director...

Reflection

My reflection this week is really a reprise of how we became involved in conversations about diversity, equity, and inclusion, where we are now, and what happens next. Find it, along with my related musings, at: <https://hub.wadistricts.org/2021/10/equity-where-are-we-now/>

Weekly thought

The [Building Better series](#) is focused on helping our day-to-day managers and executives build their skill set as well as build a stronger sense of community. Just like conservation district supervisors form a peer group for other supervisors, district managers often turn to each other for helpful advice and counsel. Our people seek to constantly improve so Pat Riley's thought on excellence seems on point:

"Excellence is the gradual result of always striving to do better."

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.

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/>



Recent Posts on the Hub

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- [Recruiting Minority Candidates to Conservation Positions](#)
- [Equity: where are we now?](#)
- [Update Your Windows PCs Immediately to Patch New 0-Day Under Active Attack](#)
- [Plant Materials Center update: October 14, 2021](#)
- [Working in Indian Country_| Willamette Partnership](#)

- [The significance of a bracelet](#)
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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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