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5 Things to Know for December 23, 2021



Dear weblinx,

In today's just-before-the-holidays edition of the Five Things, we really only have one thing for you: **our thanks**.

Thank you for enduring a full year of COVID-19 restrictions. You didn't just hunker down while the storm clouds passed overhead. Instead, you found ways to continue to serve your constituents and get conservation on the ground in spite of the challenges presented by COVID-19.

Thank you for giving others in our conservation community the grace and space to explore new ideas while keeping themselves safe. In 2021, we heard many ideas bandied about during workshops, webinars, board meetings, and other events. I continue to be impressed by the District Managers group that is helping our newer DMs become more successful. The Building Better group also brought focused conversations to our community of current and future leaders with a side benefit of increasing the communication within this important cadre of

professionals.

Thank you for a strong year of positive work and outcomes. Together, we tackled some difficult topics that produced widely supported work products.

I know more changes are ahead of us. We'll see a new chief executive at the State Conservation Commission. The Governor's proposed budget supports some thoughts that may not mix well with our core belief in the necessity and effectiveness of voluntary, incentive-based conservation. We'll see legislation that could dramatically change how conservation districts operate.

Despite these pressures, it's important to remember that we need to value and preserve our existing strong relationships even while we form new ones. More than ever, the new year will be a time when we'll need to lean on each other for help. We'll need to focus our energies as we work to find more opportunities to advance the ability of conservation districts in serving people and conserving our precious natural resources.

Adversity breeds strength. I know we'll face some challenges, both those we know and some we don't yet know. Fortunately, we will begin 2022 with a strong community. Whatever adversity comes our way will probably just make us stronger!

On behalf of our WACD Board of Directors and all of our WACD employees, thank you. We look forward to continuing to serve all of WACD's 45 member districts in 2022. Please remember that we hear you and we are here for you.

Our next edition of the Five Things will be on Thursday, January 6, 2022.

Yours in conservation,

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