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5 Things to Know for February 17, 2022

Dear weblinx,

1. CD elections bill does not advance

House Bill 1652 was not considered by the House before Tuesday's cut-off. **WACD members and partners can consider HB 1652 dead for this session.** We wish to thank those who participated in last year's Joint Committee on Elections, and the resulting conversations within WACD and with legislators.

We expect this topic to carry forward into the summer and the 2023 legislative session. The WACD Board of Directors will discuss this at their February Board meeting next week in regards to potential next steps.

2. The Legislative Watch List continues to evolve

We have updated the [Legislative Watch List](#), placing the bills that are still active at the top of the list. Active bills are starred and bolded to help make them more noticeable. We've also simplified the notes/status for each bill.

The process of tracking bills gets a bit more complicated at this point because bills have moved over to the other chamber (House bills are now in the Senate). Just like when first introduced, each bill is assigned to a committee and follows the same basic process: it goes through a public hearing and is then voted on by the committee to advance it out of committee.

If you are interested in the history of a bill, the link under the bill number will take you to the Legislature's page for that bill.

3. WACD satisfied with Senate capital budget proposal

On Wednesday, February 17th, the Washington State Senate announced their proposed supplemental capital budget. Included in this draft budget are two increases to funding for conservation districts and the Commission: \$2 million for the Farmland Protection and Land Access (FPLA) and \$3 million for the Voluntary Stewardship Program. We have put our initial thoughts on yesterday's budget [on the Hub and share some predictions](#) on the forthcoming operating budget proposal.

4. NACD annual meeting: resolutions and leadership

This week, NACD considered two resolutions from Washington State. While the Skagit CD resolution on rates for riparian practices was adopted by the NACD Board, NACD did not adopt Okanogan CD's resolution about FSA emergency rules on fencing. Please note that the Skagit CD resolution was amended before adoption by NACD. We'll get a final version of that adopted

resolution soon.

Original resolutions as adopted by WACD's members are posted on the [2021 Annual Business Meeting page](#).

- Resolution 2021-02: Request for NRCS to update the reimbursable rate for riparian practices
- Resolution 2021-03: Reverse New FSA Emergency Conservation Program Rules on Fencing

This week also saw the election of Massachusetts Supervisor Kim LaFleur as NACD President-Elect. She will serve a one-year term as President-Elect alongside current NACD President Michael Crowder and is expected to assume the role of NACD President in 2023. Kim has spoken at several recent WACD Conferences and we are excited to work with her more in the future.

5. Plant Materials Center

The WACD Plant Materials Center staff had an interesting week. Sales remain very strong. Shipping was down, resulting in some backup of plants waiting to be shipped. Operationally, all is well although something we rarely think about happened: a septic system filter clogged! COVID-related absences seem to be slowing down which is a very good thing for all concerned.

Recent Posts on the Hub

- [Taking time for leadership](#)
- [Plant Materials Center update: February 17, 2021](#)
- [WACD Satisfied with Senate Capital Budget Proposal](#)
- [Streamflow grant is dam helpful to Snohomish beavers | Washington State Department of Ecology](#)
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- [U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack Highlights Key Work in 2021 to Combat Climate Change | USDA](#)
- [Conservation district elections bill did not advance](#)
- [Watershed Restoration and Assessment Intern - Palouse CD](#)
- [Massachusetts' Kim LaFleur Selected as NACD President-Elect | NACD](#)
- [Professional Engineer position in Kittitas County CD](#)

See the full list of Recent Posts at <https://hub.wadistricts.org/posts/>. Review the articles WACD staff are reading at <https://hub.wadistricts.org/resources/wacd-reading-list/>. Conservation districts mentioned in news media are [shared on Flipboard](#).

From your Executive Director

Conservation district elections bills did not advance

This week we saw legislation about conservation district elections fail to advance. Substitute House Bill 1652 is officially dead for this session. That's a shame because of the time and energy invested by many people in our community.

What happened? We can only guess that having two bills on conservation district elections (both sponsored by members of the same party) created too much division to advance the bill. Concerns about conservation district elections are unlikely to go away so WACD will continue working on this issue in 2022 to prepare for the 2023 legislative session.

Last week, we issued an "all call" to support SHB 1652 and many conservation district folks responded. Thank you! Without your support, the striker language may have found traction, so even though 1652 did not advance, please don't think your efforts were in vain!

Budget might contain additional conservation funding

The Capital Budget released yesterday looks disappointing but there may be another strategy in play. The Cap Budget is fueled by bonds so increasing this budget would mean incurring more long-term debt.

Meanwhile, there appears to be a significant surplus of funds available for the Operating Budget. WACD expects that the support we heard for voluntary conservation programs may translate into additional funding that shows up in the Operating Budget. This would be a significant gain for our members and we continue to work toward this outcome.

Please say thank you to your legislators

For both issues — conservation district elections and conservation program funding — your conversations with legislators have been, and continue to be, crucial. Thank you for helping us to advance your needs with legislators. Be sure to also thank your legislators for their hard work! Whether you are a conservation district supervisor or a state representative or senator, being an elected official is often a thankless job. Your thank you will be welcomed and appreciated by your electeds.

WACD Board meeting on Monday, February 21st at 6 pm

The WACD Board of Directors will hold a regular meeting on Monday evening, February 21st, at 6:00 pm. Details are posted on the [Board Meetings page](#).

Weekly quotations

With the whiplash nature of working with legislation and opportunities with the budget, this week's quotes are about dealing with life's ups and downs, and perhaps maintaining a sense of humor about it all.

"I feel ups and downs are a part of one's career, and this totally depends on how you take it. You can either be knocked down by the negative things, or you can take it in a positive way and learn from it. Deepika Padukone" – Henry Ford

"Once you find someone to share your ups and downs, downs are almost as good as ups." – Robert Breault

"You have to accept the fact that sometimes you are the pigeon, and sometimes you are the statue." – Claude Chabrol

Yours in 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.

We appreciate our great sponsors

Many thanks to our generous sponsors for helping us support Washington State's conservation districts. We will be updating our sponsor list in December! Until then, find sponsors on the Conference page: <https://hub.wadistricts.org/annual/2021meetings/conference/#sponsors>



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