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Washington Association of Conservation Districts

5 Things to Know for February 24, 2022

Dear Thomas,

1. Budget excitement in this supplemental session

Monday saw the release of the supplemental operating and capital budgets, this is the beginning of the end of the legislative session. The Commission released their [budget comparison table](#) this morning, and WACD staff is ecstatic with the numbers. This level of potential funding during a supplemental budget is unthinkable! The numbers included in both the House and Senate versions for CDs are easily ten times what was in the 2020 supplemental budget.

A lot can happen between now and March 10th, but right now there is a serious possibility that voluntary riparian restoration programs may finally receive a funding amount that acknowledges how much need is out there and how much of a role voluntary, incentive processes can play. Your communication with legislators was key in convincing them that voluntary conservation works and is worth their support.

2. Area Director vacancies in South Central and Southwest

Area Directors serve as the representatives from their area to the WACD Board of Directors, and as WACD's representatives back to the districts in their area. Currently, there are two openings for conservation district supervisors who wish to serve their area and help direct WACD. One opening is in the Southwest Area and one is in the South Central Area.

The Southwest Area Executive Committee is actively looking for interested conservation district supervisors in the area who may be interested in filling this important role. Interested supervisors should contact Ryan Baye by Friday, March 18th so that the Lewis CD and the Southwest Area Executive Committee have time to prepare before they meet on March 23rd.

3. NACD Spring Fly-in

NACD's 2022 Fly-In will be virtual and held on **March 22**. Issue papers will be available in upcoming editions of NACD's eResource. WACD will be developing its priorities based on resolutions adopted by the Association, but we are interested in hearing what your district's priorities are so that we can share those with federal lawmakers.

Although traveling to Washington, D.C. will not be possible this spring due to ongoing concerns with COVID-19 and limitations placed on people visiting Capitol Hill, it is still incredibly

important that your members of Congress know what the needs of locally-led conservation are so that conservation districts can receive adequate support to continue protecting our nation's natural resources.

4. Committee activities

Activity is heating up in the committee/task force realm as we see the end of this legislative session approaching.

- The **Harmful Algae Bloom Task Force** is being formed with leadership by the Whidbey Island CD and assistance by WACD staff.
- An **Investment Policy Task Force** has been created by WACD President Mike Mumford. This task force is meeting regularly to develop policy language about WACD's investments.
- A **Committee on Sustainable Funding** is being formed by WACD President Mumford. This will be an evergreen committee to continually look at opportunities to provide ongoing funding for conservation districts.

5. Plant Materials Center

Harvest at the WACD Plant Materials Center was suspended because of frozen ground. Our PMC Director of Nursery Operations, Jim Brown, reflects on this state of affairs in his [weekly PMC update](#).

Remember the Leaving a Legacy Program!

The Washington Conservation Society annually publishes [Leaving a Legacy](#), a memorial and celebratory book of conservationists who have made or are making a notable impact on the natural resources in Washington State. Inductees include past and present Supervisors, district volunteers, and agency partners. The book includes photos and biographical information. The book is published electronically each fall.

Recent Posts on the Hub

- [Plant Materials Center update: February 24, 2022](#)
- [Inclusion must also mean hearing dissenting voices](#)
- [Soil and Water Conservation Project Manager - Lemhi SWCD](#)
- [Week 6 General Legislative Review](#)
- [Legislation Still Active Approaching Opposite Policy Cutoff](#)
- [Family Forest Fish Passage Program Manager, Natural Resource Specialist 4](#)
- [Natural Resources Instructor - Green River College](#)
- [Taking time for leadership | Management Issues](#)

- [Plant Materials Center update: February 17, 2021](#)
- [WACD Satisfied with Senate Capital Budget Proposal](#)

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

Additional funding in budget and thanking legislators

Now that the House and Senate proposed budgets are published, now is a great time to say thank you to your legislators. We were able to bring the idea of increasing financial support for voluntary conservation programs into the narrative around riparian buffers. Legislators heard this and have responded by adding money for conservation in their proposed budgets. This is highly unusual in a supplemental budget year so thanking them is probably extra meaningful this year.

Inclusion, mission, and civility

As we continue to learn more about inclusion as a tool that can benefit our ability to achieve our mission, I reflect on a couple of facets around this in my Executive Corner column this week: [Inclusion must also mean hearing dissenting voices](#). I'm biased, of course, but I think it's worth a read.

Weekly quotations

Civility is on my mind this week.

"Civility is the recognition that all people have dignity that's inherent to their person, no matter their religion, race, gender, sexuality, or ability." – Opan Tometi

"Civility costs nothing, and buys everything." – Mary Wortley Montagu

Yours in conservation,

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Partners are important!

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- [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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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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