



Washington Association of Conservation Districts

5 Things to Know for March 24, 2022

Dear Thomas,

1 – Livestock Task Force Members Needed

Last winter, the Association adopted a resolution to create a livestock task force to address the issue of stock watering rights. WACD staff is now focusing on this task with the legislative session over. We are seeking representatives from our member-districts that want to be a part of both the ongoing statewide discussion as well as considering the impact of any potential changes to state water law vis à vis livestock watering rights.

Please contact [Ryan Baye](#) if you or your district want to be a part of this group.

2 – WACD/WSCC Review of 2022 Legislative Session

On Monday, April 4th from 1 - 3 PM, WACD and WSCC are hosting an informative meeting and discussion on the 2022 legislative session for CD Supervisors and Managers. There will be an explanation of the bills adopted this year as they relate to conservation districts, as well as a review of bills not passed and expected to become future legislative proposals. Additionally, the supplemental budget will have been signed and the final numbers for the next fiscal year becoming available so districts can begin planning.

You can find the meeting details on the WACD Hub's [Calendar of Events](#).

3 – Annual conference questions

The WACD Board of Directors will be soliciting bids in the coming months for the 2022/2023 Annual Conference. They want to hear from the membership as to its preferences for how the conference should be structured and organized before contacting venues.

Please take [this brief survey](#) by April 15th so WACD can better serve prepare its conference events.

4 – Prioritizing legislative topics for next year

At the Board of Directors' work session on Monday, there was discussion on which legislative topics WACD should prioritize in the interim as planning begins for the 2023 legislative session. The top three issues with the highest priority level would be CD elections, sustainable funding for districts, and supporting a voluntary approach to improving riparian habitat.

We are seeking comment from member-districts on this list ([WACD 2022 Legislative Interim Planning Memo](#)), both in terms of priority level and whether or not any topics should be added or removed, before the Board meets on April 18th. Comments and feedback should be directed to [Ryan Baye](#), WACD's Legislative & Membership Director

5 – NACD Fly-in is occurring this week and next

This week, WACD and partners met with four of Washington's US representatives or their staff. Three more meetings are scheduled for next week. The State Conservation Commission, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, National Association of Conservation Districts, and WACD are partnering for these meetings. Many thanks to Ryan Baye, WACD's Director of Legislative and Member Services, for setting up these meetings, and to the other members of Washington's Conservation Partnership.

And Checkout This Week's PMC Update

Harvest is nearing its end for the nursery and staff. Spring is in the air and plants are headed out the door. [Check out the updates from Jim Brown](#)

Recent Posts on the Hub

- [Plant Materials Center update: March 24, 2022](#)
- [Natural Resource Planner/Senior Natural Resource Planner - Whidbey Island CD](#)
- [Canola in the Pacific Northwest: From Farm to Table \(video\)](#)
- [Additional Budget Details](#)
- [Sine Die Legislative Review](#)
- [Success in the Final Supplemental Budget](#)
- [USDA Report Shows a Decade of Conservation Trends | NRCS](#)
- [Plant Materials Center update: March 10, 2022](#)
- [Washington lawmakers nix forced buffers, embrace conservation | capitalpress.com](#)
- [Week 8 General Legislative Review](#)

See the full list of Recent Posts at <https://hub.wadistricts.org/posts/>. Many news articles that mention Washington State conservation districts are [shared on Flipboard](#). In the [WACD Reading List](#) we capture many articles of interest to segments of our community.

From your Executive Director

Governor Inslee has until April 2nd to wield his pen on the budget. As we know, there are substantial new funds for conservation work in that budget, but it isn't real until he signs. And so we are watching the clock tick down. Like you, we are perhaps a bit nervous that some items could be vetoed. At this moment in time, we don't know anything new about the budget compared to last week. We wait, we watch, and we cross our fingers for luck.

No matter what the final outcome is, one message came through very clearly this year: legislators believe in voluntary conservation. The budget approved by the Legislature is a strong vote of confidence in what our conservation community can do. I hope the Governor agrees!

Our belief system is founded on the idea that locally-led decisions serve natural resources the best. Local, nonregulatory decision-making is the grassroots system embodied in the way our conservation districts function. Seeing the Legislature agree with how conservation districts do business is a huge win, even if the Governor chooses to veto some budget items that affect our

community.

I hope he won't, though. I hope he agrees with the Legislature, with many of our partners, and with the many people who have been well-served by conservation districts: voluntary conservation works.

Yours in 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: <https://hub.wadistricts.org/annual/2021meetings/conference/#sponsors>



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