



Washington Association of Conservation Districts

5 Things to Know for March 31, 2022

Legislative Session Review with Commission & WACD on April 4

Join the Washington State Conservation Commission and the Washington Association of Conservation Districts on April 4th, 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm, for a review of the 2022 legislative session. We will explore bills passed and not passed, along with the supplemental budget adds. [Learn more about the meeting and how to join.](#)

Dear Thomas,

1 – New District Directory Available

[Lori McLaughlin](#) updated the [District Directory](#) on March 23rd. We post the Directory behind a password to make it harder for internet bots to scrape email addresses as they seek to inundate your inbox with unwanted mail. What is the password? You can deduce it from our easy-to-follow hints:

1. Start it with the abbreviation for Washington Association of Conservation Districts, all in capital letters.
2. End it with the year WACD was formed. That happened in 1942.
3. The password should consist of four capital letters and four numbers, with no spaces. It will look something like this: ABCD1234

If that didn't work for you, you can always [ask Tom or Ryan](#) for the password!

2 – WADE Conference Registration is Open

The Washington Association of District Employees will hold its annual training conference on June 13-15 at Sleeping Lady in Leavenworth. Registration is now open. Friday, May 13th is the absolute deadline for sending in your registration and guaranteeing a spot at the training. Early Registration is open until Friday, April 25th; early registrations are discounted. [Read more...](#)

3 – NACD Spring Fly-in Continues

The Washington State Conservation Commission, NRCS, and WACD met with seven Congressional members or representatives in the past two weeks, with more meetings on the way. These conversations are largely dedicated to discussing the 2023 Farm Bill and opening

the door for Washington's Congressional delegation to be able to respond when we identify specific needs in the conservation title of the bill.

In these meetings, WACD heard over and over again about the project tours CDs undertook with their federal legislators going back nearly 20 years. Those efforts make the case for federal funding for voluntary stewardship better than an office sit-down can.

4 – Seeking Feedback and Participation

WACD has three immediate opportunities for members to engage in the Association's direction and activities:

1. Legislative Topics for 2023 – The Board of Directors is discussing potential legislative topics for next year and what work needs to be completed before January of 2023. We are soliciting comments on [legislative topics for the 2023 legislative session](#) before the April 18th Board meeting.

2. Annual Conference Preferences – The Board wants to hear from the membership as to its preferences for how the 2022 & 2023 WACD Annual Conference should be structured and organized. Please [take this brief survey](#) by April 15th so WACD can better prepare for a productive conference.

3. WACD Livestock Task Force – 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 and standing up this group. We are seeking district representatives that want to be apart 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 have questions or seek to comment.

5 – Plant Materials Center Experiencing Labor Shortage

Harvest is being impacted by a labor shortage at the WACD Plant Materials Center. It is possible that some customer orders may be impacted because of the inability to get plants out of the ground, packaged, and shipped. We will, of course, try to minimize those impacts.

Recent Posts on the Hub

- [Register now for the WADE conference June 13-15](#)
- [Farm Planner - Snohomish CD](#)
- [CAD Technician - Snohomish CD](#)
- [Environmental Educator - Snohomish CD](#)
- [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](#)

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

Don't be like Jane

As we journeyed through a short legislative session, encountering surprising twists and turns along the way, I was reminded of tactics often used by some folks who represent particular groups.

When faced with something they don't like, they often try to delay action. When it looks like it can't be delayed, they may try to confuse and obfuscate the matter in the hope of achieving delay. And to create some fear, uncertainty, and doubt, they may use extreme examples that a more reasonable person may find ridiculous.

Legislators understand [hyperbole](#) because many of them use it frequently. Because they are familiar with it, they know it when they hear it from others, too.

One group, in particular, seemed to act this way during the legislative session. I'll call that group's representative Jane. Over and over again, Jane would make outlandish statements that were designed to energize those who, like her, were opposed to the proposed legislation.

Unfortunately, these tactics get in the way of the rational discourse we need in the Legislature. Many of the issues our legislators face can affect broad cross-sections of our citizenry. When testimony and debate become polarized, it can be hard to find the position that works best for most people.

Legislators are used to hearing bombastic language but as you create relationships with them, you'll discover that they get very tired of it. What most of our legislators really want to hear is true and honest local stories that can be backed up with facts. Conversations with legislators work best when you are direct, sincere, honest, and have real examples to share. They will value those interactions.

The opposite of that is what some folks like Jane try to do: delay, obfuscate, and use extreme examples. To get the most out of your interactions with legislators, don't be like Jane!

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



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