



# Washington Association of Conservation Districts

## 5 Things to Know for April 7, 2022

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### Welcome to April!

The [Governor signed the \\$64.1 billion supplemental budget](#) without vetoing any of our conservation packages. (If you missed the webinar this week, find the recording at <https://www.scc.wa.gov/cd/webinars>.) Spring is in the air which means lots of native plants are finding new homes. While COVID is still with us, the [trendline](#) looks much better than in recent months. Conservation districts are very active as the project season heats up. April is the time for rebirth for us to turn our attention to the future, and that's what conservation is all about!

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Dear Thomas,

### 1 – Budget Webinar Recording Available

On Monday of this week, the Washington State Conservation Commission and the Washington Association of Conservation Districts presented a review of the 2022 legislative session. The webinar explored bills passed and not passed, along with the supplemental budget adds. If you missed the webinar, the recording is available at <https://www.scc.wa.gov/cd/webinars>.

### 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 – Email System Changing in April

Many conservation district folks are using the free Google-based email system set up by the State Conservation Commission back in 2006 and 2007. Google recently announced that this [legacy system will be shut down by May 1, 2022](#). That is going to create a lot of change for email account holders!

WACD has agreed to stand up a replacement system to help our members bridge the gap between the free Google email service and provisioning their own email accounts. If you have an email account that ends with @conserveva.net or @wadistricts.net, you should receive an email from WACD in the next week or so. If you don't hear from us, please [reach out to Tom](#)

[and Ryan](#).

## 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 Update

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

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## Recent Posts on the Hub

- [Urban & Rural Agriculture Resource Technician - Pend Oreille CD](#)
- [Washington governor signs \\$64.1 billion supplemental budget | AP News](#)
- [Brandy Reed is new manager of conservation district | lyndentribune.com](#)
- [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 \(video\)](#)

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.

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## From your Director of Legislative & Membership Services

I am taking over the Executive Corner this week. Partially to give Tom a break but mostly because today is Opening Day for MLB and thus an excuse for me to write about baseball.

Baseball (and the Seattle Mariners in particular) is my primary sports fandom. I find many life lessons in those 162 games each year. Lessons about the importance of endurance, strengthening both the mental and physical parts of myself, and how to act during the bad luck streaks when things just aren't going your way. And how special a new season can be.

There's something magical about Opening Day, the first game of the season when there's nothing but potential ahead as the start of a new year. That it doesn't matter what happened last year, whether you won the World Series or lost 100 games, this is a time for renewal and rebirth.

Rebirth is evocative, that chance to turn the page and start again fresh is part of a lot of our daily life. Spring is a rebirth of nature, the world is green and teeming with the promise of new life to fill the empty space winter left behind. Resurrection is integral to faiths like Christianity and Buddhism, a fundamental concept that life will begin again anew. And I would bet many of you pressed an On/Off button at least once today to fix whatever electronic system wasn't working.

In baseball, Opening Day is the quintessential example of rebirth. That new opportunity for greatness each season blots everything else out. And as a long-suffering fan of a team with the longest active post-season drought, I know at an intellectual this first day may be the high point of the season but the emotion of "this year will be different" carries me away. You don't know what will happen, and it's that uncertainty that captivates you. At least it captivates me.

In our conservation world, it feels like we're in a time of rebirth. There's a new state supplemental budget with more money for voluntary programs than in recent memory. We have an upcoming election in November with unfamiliar legislative districts and different elected officials. Updated COVID guidelines means opportunities to get out and meet new co-operators. And there's also a spate of recent conservation district employees coming into our community making new connections.

When I had the opportunity to watch the 2006 Seattle Mariners Opening Day in-person, I saw how the literal red carpet was rolled out for each player with fireworks and a video montage in their first walk onto the field, whether it was for Ichiro or Roberto Petagine. No one knew on Day 1 how the season would turn out, who would be the hero and who would never see another game, so each introduction was shown reverence. That Opening Days are to be welcomed for the opportunity they are because you don't know how many you're going to get.

Go Mariners,

Very sincerely,

Ryan Baye

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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.

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## We appreciate our great sponsors

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