



Washington Association of Conservation Districts

5 Things to Know for April 14, 2022

Dear Thomas,

1 – Feedback and Participation before WACD Board Meeting

WACD has three immediate opportunities for members to engage in the Association's direction and activities. This will be our final call on these topics before the April 18th WACD Board of Directors meeting:

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](#).
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 Friday 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](#) by April 15th if you have questions or wish to comment.

2 – WADE Conference Early Registration Deadline April 25th

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

Last week we promised to reach out to conservation districts regarding the email changes addressed below. That promise still holds so expect an email soon!

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 @conservewa.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 – Five Things Schedule May Change

Our member districts tend to be quite busy all year, but never more so that during the May-through-August timeframe. It is also during that time period that WACD staff are working behind the scenes to execute adopted resolutions, prepare for area association meetings, and plan the WACD annual conference and business meeting.

This has led us to consider changing the publication schedule for the Five Things newsletter to twice a month during the summer season. WACD staff will propose this change to the Board of Directors at their Monday, April 18th meeting.

If you have a strong feeling either way, please [let us know](#)!

5 – Plant Materials Center Update

Harvest is done but shipping continues. Sales hit a record level! Field cleanup is underway as the next cycle is about to begin. [Read more \(with pictures!\) in today's update](#).

Recent Posts on the Hub

- [Executive Director, Washington Association of Land Trusts](#)
- [Fish and Wildlife Biologist](#)
- [Is there an intersection of opportunities for elections, DEI, and rates and charges?](#)
- [Plant Materials Center update: April 14, 2022](#)
- [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](#)

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

Now that we've made it through the legislative session and the Governor has signed the budget bills, WACD staff can begin to invest some energy in looking ahead. I have been musing about how we tend to break our issues into narrow packages and whether that helps us or hurts us.

In some ways, separating issues may get in the way of coming together as a wider coalition of interests. It's easier to talk about a narrowly defined topic, but it's harder to see how others may join the conversation and help us achieve better outcomes.

In that vein, I've been thinking about conservation district elections, about diversity, equity, and inclusion, and about rates and charges. Is there an intersection of opportunities in those topics? Is there an opportunity to create a wide, strong coalition for a single package that creates more value for our community?

We haven't yet talked about possible overlaps of those big topics. Exploring those intersections and opportunities is the topic of my Executive Corner column this week: [Is there an intersection of opportunities for elections, DEI, and rates and charges?](#)

In my musing, I keep repeating the need to retain local choice. My opinion is that conservation districts must be able to choose how to best serve their communities, and providing for local choice supports that approach. That was a founding principle when conservation districts were formed and it remains important.

Yours in conservation,

Tom Salzer, Executive Director
tsalzer@wadistricts.org

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

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