



Washington Association of Conservation Districts

5 Things to Know for April 21, 2022

Dear Thomas,

1 – 2022 Election Season Preview

WACD's lobbyist has authored a deep dive into what may be on the horizon for legislative office filings. In an even-numbered year such as this, the entire House and half of the Senate seats are up for reelection. And while it is early and official filing will not begin until May 16, a record number of legislators, particularly Democrats, have announced they will not run for reelection. This creates many open seats statewide. [Read more...](#)

2 – WACD Conference Survey Results

Thank you! We asked for your help and you responded! Here are the survey results:

- 69% of respondents want a 100% in-person conference with an option for virtual participation.
- 65% of respondents want a two- or three-day conference consisting of the WACD Annual Business Meeting, speakers, and social activities.
- 62% of respondents want WACD to continue to hold its Annual Conference the week after Thanksgiving.
- 73% of respondents want WACD to continue rotating its conference venue among different areas of the state.
- 50% of respondents said the conference primarily should target conservation districts and its major partners like the Commission and NRCS.

Using these as parameters, WACD staff will search for conference venues in Central Washington cities like Wenatchee and Yakima. (This follows our standard pattern of rotating among different areas of the state.) We're looking for available meeting space and hotel nights for the week after Thanksgiving in 2022 and 2023. Requirements will include: meeting and dining space for up to 125 attendees; adjacent hotels will accept government per-diem rates; and sufficient internet ability for virtual participation in conference events.

3 – WACD Board Directs Legislative Priorities

At Monday evening's WACD Board of Directors meeting, the Board gave tacit approval for WACD staff to get started on preparations for the 2023 legislative session with several

legislative priorities.

Tier 1 priorities: elections, buffers, funding

- 1A – Conservation district elections
- 1B – Riparian buffers and the effectiveness of voluntary conservation
- 1C – Long-term funding

Tier 2 priorities: budget, livestock, relationships

- 2A – Biennial budget development with the Conservation Commission
- 2B – Livestock water rights
- 2C – Working more proactively with conservation districts and legislators

Tier 3 priorities: other

- Solar panel conversion
- Community forest eligibility
- Ag worker overtime
- Rangeland fire districts
- Taxing conservation district property
- Water basin transfers
- Crop protection products

Find the legislative priorities memo in the [April 2022 WACD Board meeting folder](#) or [access the legislative priorities memo directly](#).

4 – Five Things Schedule to Change May through August

Without objection by the Board at their Monday evening meeting, WACD staff will reduce the frequency of the Five Things newsletter beginning in May. For May through August, we plan to publish on the first and third Thursday of each month. This change recognizes how busy conservation district officials and staff are during the summer months, and it allows WACD staff to invest more time in preparing for area association meetings, the WACD annual conference and business meeting, and changes in legislative offices.

5 – Plant Materials Center Update

Field cleanup is underway. The PMC is running a **cooler reduction sale** now so please contact them if you need some good stock at a reduced cost. The PMC report this week also includes some thoughts on the conservation district plant sale roundtable and about the use of gravel beds to extend bare root planting season. The gravel bed research results look very positive and some plant stock will be available for your fall project planting needs. [Read more...](#)

5+1 – Committees, Task Forces, and Working Groups

Status:

- The **Harmful Algae Blooms (HABs) Work Group** is now meeting and already they have assembled some key resources for work group members.

- The **Investment Policy Task Force** has been accomplishing good work. They are trying to develop clear investment guidance to propose to the WACD Board of Directors.
 - The **Livestock Work Group** is about to be named by President Mumford. We have all of the working group folks lined up except for one position.
 - The **Sustainable Funding Committee** is not quite ready to be announced. President Mumford is still seeking a conservation district supervisor from the Southeast Area to fill out the committee.
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Email System Update

Transitioning the free email system for conservation districts is underway. We are reporting important information on the District Email page at <https://hub.wadistricts.org/district-email/>

For background information about the changing email system, please visit <https://hub.wadistricts.org/district-email/#change>

We have set up a test system that is functioning. This gives us a template to help make configuring the two email domains go more smoothly. Next week, we will work with the Conservation Commission to transfer ownership of the conservewa.net and wadistrict.net domains to WACD. Once WACD can manage those domains, we will proceed with standing up email services under those two domains.

WACD has sent temporary passwords to account holders so that when we enable the new system, users will be able to access their accounts. Mail client configuration examples are shown at <https://hub.wadistricts.org/district-email/#configure>

WACD has also enabled a chat function on the District Email page so that users can get support without having to depend on email. This is a backstop in case folks have trouble with the new instance of their email account.

By the time the next edition of the Five Things is published on April 28th, all user accounts should be enabled on the new system. Our target deadline is for users to be able to log into their accounts by Monday, May 2. WACD staff will continue to work with affected individuals to make sure that their email is working!

Recent Posts on the Hub

- [Plant Materials Center update: April 21, 2022](#)
- [Communications Coordinator, Benton SWCD \(Oregon\)](#)
- [2022 Legislative Filing Preview](#)
- [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](#)

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

Our Member and Legislative Director is away until next week so I am holding down the fort in Olympia at the moment. The transition of the conservation district email system is consuming much of my time at the moment, but this is important work in that it will reduce potential disruption for our members.

We've run into a couple of speed bumps in the email transition. Today, I'm letting this quote from James Clear guide my thinking:

"One roadblock almost never ruins you. There might not be 1000 ways to accomplish something, but there is almost always more than one way. Know what you want. Be flexible about how to get there."

And this quote from John Gall, a physician and author, is influencing me today as I seek the simplest solutions to a few challenges:

"A complex system that works is invariably found to have evolved from a simple system that worked. The inverse proposition also appears to be true: A complex system designed from scratch never works and cannot be made to work. You have to start over, beginning with a working simple system."

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

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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