



Washington Association of Conservation Districts

5 Things to Know for April 28, 2022

Dear Thomas,

1 – CDs in the News

It is always welcome to see a spotlight shine on district programs. There are three this week alone from local media outlets to share with you:

- [Poop Smart Clark program aims to reduce fecal bacteria in Clark County's waterways](#) | The Columbian
- [Salmon Summit teaches kids about conservation, science](#) | NW News Network
- [Grant program gets green light](#) | Washington Wheat Life

2 – Email System Update Proceeding

As of noon today (Thursday) WACD is on track during the email migration process for those with a @conserveva.net or @wadistrict.net email account. We are in the delicate stage of porting email accounts over to the new system. Our fingers and toes are crossed that everything continues to go smoothly. We are posting updates on the [district email changes here](#) and a chat feature is available at that link as a way for us to be contacted by those experiencing email troubles.

3 – NACD's Farm Bill Principles

For those yet to read NACD's April 19th edition of the e-Resource, there was information on the national association's eleven principles when it comes to the upcoming Farm Bill. They range the gauntlet of supporting the locally-led, voluntary incentive-based conservation model to ensuring the economic viability of agriculture.

As these conservations pick up steam at the federal level going into the summer months, we want our membership to be aware of [NACD's starting position](#).

4 – Five Things Schedule to Change May through August

Without objection by the Board at their Monday last 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

The PMC is halfway through the transplanting season, planting small conifer plugs into the field so they are ready to harvest in the winter. With a crew of 10, they're planting over 35,000 plugs a day. The PMC is running a **cooler reduction sale** now so please contact them if you need some good stock at a reduced cost before the cooler is turned off sometime in the next week.

[Read more...](#)

Recent Posts on the Hub

- [Hearing Dissent](#)
- [Plant Materials Center update: April 28, 2022](#)
- [Fire Intelligence Coordinator, Wildland Fire Program Coordinator 1, DNR](#)
- [District Manager, Yamhill SWCD, Oregon](#)
- [NACD's 11 Farm Bill Principles](#)
- [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](#)

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

I have long held that when we help board members understand all aspects of a situation, they reach the best possible decision. It is in that line of thinking that I wrote this week's Executive Corner article titled [Hearing Dissent](#).

It is always enjoyable to hear someone comment at a meeting about how much they like something that we do. Whether you are with a conservation district, the Conservation Commission, WACD, or a partner organization, hearing that someone feels good about your work is uplifting.

It is much more difficult, though, to listen to someone who doesn't feel good about what you are doing. We often [exhibit bias \(consciously or unconsciously\) toward naysayers](#):

Not only did every team have an opposer (or two), but almost every team was annoyed by the behavior, considered it unhelpful, and wished it (and the person) would go away. In some cases, reactions to the opposer were quite intense, ranging from stonewalling or the silent treatment to aggressive outbursts.

But consider: in which situation do we learn the most? Is it listening to the people who agree with what we do, or hearing from those who disagree? I think there is tremendous value in hearing the thoughts of those who don't agree with the majority in the room.

Our meeting culture doesn't really promote hearing from those who disagree. I speak to this and offer a partial solution in [Hearing Dissent](#). When we can really listen beyond what we perceive as negativity and aggression, we may hear incredibly good ideas. Those thoughts can help decision-makers reach the best decisions, and isn't that what we want them to do?

I'll close with a quote from Pulitzer Prize-winning author Richard Powers on how to change someone's mind:

"The best arguments in the world won't change a single person's mind. The only thing that can do that is a good story."

Perhaps we should seek ways to pause long enough to hear those stories and perhaps be changed.

Yours in conservation,

Tom Salzer, Executive Director
tsalzer@wadistricts.org

Partners are important!

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- [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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1219 11th Ave SE, Olympia, WA 98501

(360) 999-5151

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