



# Washington Association of Conservation Districts

## 5 Things to Know for May 19, 2022

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### We've had a successful year

As we approach the end of the current fiscal year, we are happy to report that we have had some good successes. We've also been provided some opportunities to examine how we operate and to consider how we can do a better job of serving our members and achieving our mission. [Read more...](#)

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Dear Thomas,

### 1 – Remember the Commission budget survey!

The State Conservation Commission recently sent out a budget survey to conservation districts. They do need your feedback so we are reminding folks of the importance of this opportunity. If you have misplaced that email, please contact your Commission Regional Manager.

### 2 – WACD draft annual work plan

WACD is preparing a work plan for the WACD Board to consider in June. Before presenting the draft for adoption, WACD would appreciate receiving comments from our members. Consultant Josh Monaghan is handling this process for us. Please do review the draft plan and provide your thoughts as it will help assure that the plan addresses conservation district needs. Find the draft plan and a link to the survey at <https://hub.wadistricts.org/2022/05/wacd-seeks-comments-on-draft-annual-work-plan/>

### 3 – WACD Board meeting in June to be at PMC

The WACD Board of Directors will hold their next meeting on June 20th at the [WACD Plant Materials Center](#) in Bow, Washington. A virtual option will be provided for those unable to attend in person. This meeting will be focused on adopting WACD's annual work plan and the annual budget.

### 4 – WACD committees are active

WACD has reorganized the [committees page on the Hub](#) to make it easier for you to find each committee, task force, or work group. We call your attention to four active groups:

- **HABs Work Group:** The Harmful Algal Blooms Work Group was formed in response to [Resolution 2021-01](#). Whidbey Island CD supervisor Mark Sytsma chairs the work group,

which has met twice.

- **Investment Policy Task Force**: President Mumford formed the Investment Policy Task Force in February to develop draft policy that will guide how WACD invests funds. Underwood CD supervisor Barbara Bailey chairs the task force.
- **Livestock Task Force**: [Resolution 2021-05](#) called for the creation of the Livestock Task Force dedicated to addressing the off-channel water diversion issue. This group is recently constituted and has just started to meet, if any districts are still interested in participating. Whatcom CD supervisor Alan Chapman and Stevens County CD District Manager Dean Hellie are the co-chairs for this group.
- **Sustainable Funding Committee**: The Sustainable Funding Committee was created via [Resolution 2021-07B](#) and is recently constituted. Snohomish CD supervisor Mark Craven chairs this committee. They are currently organizing their first meeting.

WACD appreciates the investment of time and energy by the 10 supervisors and 18 district employees who are working on these topics.

## 5 – Plant Materials Center update

A weather window opened up, allowing PMC staff to plant conifer seeds. That takes precedence over getting an update out for you today. Once we get that update published, though, you can find it at <https://hub.wadistricts.org/topics/wacd/pmc/>

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## Summer schedule for the Five Things

Reminder: we are publishing on a "summer schedule" with issues of the Five Things newsletter sent on the first and third Thursday in May, June, July, and August.

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## Recent Posts on the Hub

- [WACD Seeks Comments on Draft Annual Work Plan](#)
- [We've had a successful year](#)
- [Fish and Wildlife Biologist 3 with WA DNR](#)
- [Conservation district campus enters new stage | Spokane Journal of Business](#)
- [Plant Materials Center update: May 5, 2022](#)
- [Farm Tool Library opens in White Salmon | columbiagorgenews.com](#)
- [Hearing Dissent](#)
- [Plant Materials Center update: April 28, 2022](#)
- [Fire Intelligence Coordinator, Wildland Fire Program Coordinator 1, DNR](#)
- [District Manager, Yamhill SWCD, Oregon](#)

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 Executive Director

Have you considered partnering with Rotary?

What is Rotary? Here's what they say about themselves:

*Rotary is a global network of 1.4 million neighbors, friends, leaders, and problem-solvers who see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change – across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves.*

If you're in Seattle or Spokane, you know you have a Rotary Club in your community. But smaller places have them, too. Places like Shelton and Lake Chelan, and even smaller communities. Odds are that you have a Rotary Club nearby.

Why is this significant? Because many Rotary clubs have recently adopted a [seventh area of focus: the environment](#). This presents opportunities in many communities across Washington State for conservation districts to partner with local Rotary clubs on conservation projects. Service is baked into the DNA of conservation districts so this seems like a low-friction way to create partnerships and support among business leaders in the communities served by conservation districts.

Maybe it makes sense to look at this thought another way by asking: what do you have to lose? You aren't going to end up with fewer projects or fewer partners by working with your Rotary Club. You might, in fact, see support grow in facets of your community that desire the services and programs that conservation districts provide.

Rotary's seven areas of focus are:

1. Peace and conflict prevention/resolution
2. Disease prevention and treatment
3. Water and sanitation
4. Maternal and child health
5. Basic education and literacy
6. Economic and community development
7. The Environment

Seems to me there are some likely intersections of interest and capacity in a few of those topics.

What's to lose? Not much, if anything. What might be gained? Support from sources not touched before and service to even more people in your community.

I'll close with a couple of quotes that reflect on service.

| *"Life is for service."* – Fred Rogers

| *"The world is moved not only by the mighty shoves of the heroes, but also by the aggregate of the tiny pushes of each honest worker."* – Helen Keller

Yours in conservation,

Tom Salzer, Executive Director  
[tsalzer@wadistricts.org](mailto:tsalzer@wadistricts.org)

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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

Many thanks to our generous sponsors for helping us support Washington State's conservation districts: <https://hub.wadistricts.org/annual/2021meetings/conference/#sponsors>



## Pass it on!

Please pass this newsletter on to others in our conservation community so they can subscribe and be as informed as you are!

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1219 11th Ave SE, Olympia, WA 98501

(360) 999-5151

MailPoet