



Washington Association of Conservation Districts

5 Things to Know for June 2, 2022

This is the 80th year for your statewide association

WACD was born in 1942, making 2022 the 80th anniversary. We would like your ideas of how we can celebrate this milestone and memorialize this remarkable achievement. Please send your suggestions to [WACD Executive Director Tom Salzer](#).

Over the years, WACD presidents have come from many different conservation districts. In fact, 29 presidents have come from eastern Washington districts and 11 from western Washington districts. Your current WACD President, Mike Mumford, hails from Pend Oreille Conservation District. Drawing leaders from all parts of Washington helps us provide a strong, resilient organization that recognizes the unique character of every conservation district.

Dear Thomas,

1 – Supervisors: thank you for your service

This time of year is always bittersweet as we see conservation district supervisors separating from service with their districts. This year, we are losing 12 supervisors with more than 100 years of combined service and experience. Please join us in thanking these individuals for investing their time and talent in helping their conservation districts succeed!

- Clallam – Matthew Heins – 15 years
- Central Klickitat – Doug Miller – 9
- Ferry – Scott Palmer – 5
- Jefferson County – Janet Aubin – 4
- Kitsap – Sharon Call – 32
- Kitsap – Sharon Howard – 3
- Mason – Myron Ougendal – 7
- Pend Oreille – Kevin Bush – 3
- Skagit – Eben Twaddle – 6
- South Douglas – Eileen Bone – 6

- Whidbey Island – Tim Keohane – 11*
- Whitman – David Lange –10

2 – Supervisors: elected and appointed

We congratulate these 12 individuals who are elected and certified, or appointed, to serve as conservation district supervisors:

- Clallam – Nicole Rasmussen
- Central Klickitat – Craig Schuster
- Columbia – Debra Nordheim
- Ferry – Joann Marshall
- Jefferson County – Elijah Christian
- Kitsap – Bob Gilby
- Kitsap – David Vliet
- Mason – Carmen Echeverria
- Pend Oreille – Jon Driver
- Skagit – Taylor Reijm
- South Douglas – Justin Grillo
- Whidbey Island – Jessica Aws

3 – Reminder: comments desired on WACD annual work plan

There is still time to submit your comments on WACD's draft annual work plan. This request was previously sent to our full mailing list on May 23rd. The plan will guide the day-to-day work of WACD's Executive Office staff as they work to support the efforts of the Association and assist WACD members.

- Download the WACD FY23 Annual Work Plan and Budget Public Comment Draft from the WACD Hub at <https://hub.wadistricts.org/22-23-draft-annual-plan/>
- Comment via a survey at <https://monaghanconsulting.surveyparrot.com/s/WACD-2023-Annual-Plan-Feedback/tt-6a784c>

Survey comments will be accepted until June 13th.

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. A major focus of this meeting will be on adopting WACD's annual work plan and the annual budget.

4 – WADE training is just around the corner

Registrations for the 2022 WADE annual training conference (June 13-15) are up. Attendance looks like it will be robust, with a great slate of presentations and presenters for attendees. Find the conference schedule, registration form, and presentations from 2021 at <https://sites.google.com/site/wadistrictemployees/wade-conference>

That link also has information about the WADE silent auction. Donations will help fund WADE conference scholarships. Donated item ideas are: homemade crafts, baked/canned goodies, wine/micro brews, gift baskets, local swag, gift cards, trips, resort stays, personal photography prints, you name it! [Contact Cindy Pierce](#) for the submission form or fill it out when you bring your donations to the Salmon Gallery registration area.

For those who enjoy a bit of competition, compete in [Envirothon trivia](#) at the WADE conference on Tuesday evening, June 14th from 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm at the Grotto. The cost is \$20/person.

5 – Plant Materials Center update

When the final sales report is completed for this fiscal year, it will show plant sales of nearly \$1.6 million. That is an amazing result! Meanwhile, spring seed planting is almost complete. and field inventories are being conducted. Budget work is heating up as we approach the June 20th Board of Directors meeting. [Read more...](#)

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.

Recent Posts on the Hub

- [Plant Materials Center update: June 16, 2022](#)
- [Western White Pine, A Tree of the Past for the Future | The Journal of the San Juan Islands](#)
- [Incoming and Outgoing Supervisors](#)
- [Plant Materials Center update: June 2, 2022](#)
- [District Manager, Foster Creek CD](#)
- [Farm Resource Specialist, Pierce CD](#)
- [NACD Forestry Webinar June 10th](#)
- [Office of Farmland Preservation Specialist \(Program Specialist 3\)](#)
- [WACD Seeks Comments on Draft Annual Work Plan](#)
- [We've had a successful year](#)

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'm struggling. With what, you might wonder? It's extraordinarily difficult to maintain positive momentum in support of 45 member conservation districts when a topic tends to divide us. On top of that, our work in the Executive Office is filled with daily requests for assistance from conservation district supervisors and staff, WACD board members, and partners. Those daily requests can and do tend to fragment our work on longer-term, larger projects.

So what is most important: the large projects or timely service to members? Both are, so Ryan and I divide our time and tasks to try to maintain progress in both realms.

In 2022, my struggle has become more clearly focused because of the remarkable milestones we have achieved together: 80 years of service and support for our members, and this year, the extraordinary allocation of \$29 million for voluntary conservation programs. Neither of these things has happened before in Washington State. The contrast between these accomplishments and historical results makes them stand out. These achievements are well worth celebrating.

I hope you will pause for a moment to reflect on how we got to this point and how we can continue to help voluntary conservation succeed in the next 80 years. We stand on a strong history of hard work and commitment by many people who came before us. Those people came from all parts of Washington and indeed, some of these past leaders are still with us. (There are some great stories to be heard if you know one of those folks!)

In my 30 years in this community, one of the key factors contributing to WACD's successes has been the ability to overcome personal disagreements and instead focus on issues that are important to our members. Yes, there have been many disagreements! I remember some very contentious discussions at WACD annual meetings. Ultimately, though, individuals were able to set aside their unhappiness so that the membership could move forward on critical needs. Sometimes those needs affected every conservation district. Sometimes only a few districts would be affected but the issue was felt to be important by a majority of members.

We are, once again, at one of those moments where disagreement could disrupt our momentum and interrupt the work we do to aid conservation district success. I'm a licensed amateur radio operator, so an analogy that works for me is that many of us are doing a lot of broadcasting but few of us are pausing to tune into what others are saying.

As I've reflected on my own struggle to help the Association move forward, I've concluded that this behavior of broadcasting without receiving is a recurring weakness in our community. I've observed it many times over three decades. I'm stumped as to why this should be so. I'm stumped because our conservation districts don't work this way with cooperators so why do we work this way within our own conservation community?

When our people work with cooperators, they [listen first and seek to understand](#) before they try to convince someone to take a particular action. When faced with objections to specific conservation actions, conservation district folks are often able to find compromises that help to advance the conservation of natural resources while respecting the voluntary, cooperative, locally-led principle.

And yet, we seem to find it difficult to use these same skills when working within our community. I am not castigating anyone because WACD does it, too. That is completely

understandable since our 19-member Board of Directors is drawn directly from the same community, so they have all the same capabilities and limitations that we see in our larger community. WACD staff suffers from the same malady because, like you, we care about conservation and the people we serve.

Our members care deeply about conservation, their local community, and service. Caring is an emotional driver, meaning that we all have some triggers that can cause us to exhibit how completely human and fallible we are. None of us is immunized against becoming emotionally involved or influenced. I certainly know that I'm not immune!

As we grapple with disagreement this year, my suggestion is to simply slow down and try to understand where the other person is coming from. To do that, we have to stop broadcasting and instead tune into what is being said by the other person. If we can't find a way to actually hear each other, I see little hope of breaking this repeated cycle of lots of broadcasting, little receiving, and too many hard feelings that ultimately erode our relationships and our effectiveness.

As I like to do, I looked for some quotations that may help illuminate the point I'm trying to make. I like these:

"When people talk, listen completely. Most people never listen." – Ernest Hemingway

"One of the most sincere forms of respect is actually listening to what another has to say." – Bryant H. McGill

"When we listen, we hear someone into existence." – Laurie Buchanan, PhD

Yours in conservation,

Tom Salzer, Executive Director
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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.

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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