



# Washington Association of Conservation Districts

## 5 Things to Know for July 7, 2022

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### We Need Your Information!

Following the State Conservation Commission's certification of district elections and appointment of supervisors in June, we need your help in updating information in the **WACD District Directory**. Please review the information listed for your district in the May 13, 2022 edition of the Directory and send any needed updates to WACD's Olympia office at [oly@wacd.org](mailto:oly@wacd.org). This should be the last round of updates until fall.

We keep the Directory behind a password to help foil the bad actors who like to harvest email addresses and phone numbers from such documents. The eight-character password is very simple, consisting of WACD's abbreviation in capital letters (WACD), immediately followed by the year WACD was founded (1942). If that isn't clear, just shoot us an email at [oly@wacd.org](mailto:oly@wacd.org) and we'll send it to you.

Download the latest directory from: <https://hub.wadistricts.org/resources/contacts/>

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Dear Thomas,

### 1 – WACD Dues and You

Last week, WACD sent the annual dues invoice to all 45 conservation districts. Whenever we ask for your support, we also like to explain how you benefit. Included with the dues invoice is a letter from Executive Director Tom Salzer that discusses WACD's accomplishments and opportunities from the past 12 months. It is our hope that this helps provide more awareness of the successes we've enjoyed, as well as the difficult moments that help WACD to become better at serving members.

Find the **2022 WACD dues cover letter** at: <https://hub.wadistricts.org/wacd/documents/#dues>

### 2 – Conservation Commission Meeting in Two Weeks

Believe it or not, July 21st is only two weeks away. The [Kittitas County Conservation District](#) is hosting a tour on Wednesday, July 20th from 1:00 - 5:30 PM to showcase fish barrier removal projects, wildfire fuel reductions, farmland preservation, and more. You can register for the tour and/or dinner on the [WSCC Website](#) until next Wednesday, July 13th. Information on the Commission Meeting on the 21st, including the meeting agenda, materials, and Zoom access for online participation, should be available soon on their dedicated [Commission Meeting](#)

[webpage](#).

### 3 – Harmful Algae Blooms Work Group Update

WACD's HAB Work Group will hold its fourth meeting next Wednesday, as the group begins writing their recommendation for the membership for consideration at the October Area Meetings and the November Annual Conference. More information on their mandate, meeting minutes, and resources being compiled are available on the [WACD Hub](#).

### 4 – July Farm Bill Hearing in Washington

The US House Agriculture Committee is holding a listening session as part of their review of the current Farm Bill in King County on Friday, July 22nd. Details are forthcoming, but their [press release](#) lists 10 AM as the start time at Remlinger Farms in Carnation, hosted by Washington's own Congresswoman Kim Schrier. The hearing will also be streamed online.

### 5 – Planning for the October Area Meetings

WACD staff is in contact with the six districts scheduled to host the 2022 Area Meetings. These are the once-a-year gatherings of the six area associations to hear and debate resolutions, elect their representatives to the WACD Board of Directors, and sit down with WACD, WSCC, and NRSC leadership. "Save the Date" notifications should be released by the end of the month for each area meeting. This is the time to begin district discussions on any local resolutions you want to see considered at the WACD Annual Business meeting. Adopted resolutions direct WACD's priorities and activities.

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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

- [Maintenance Worker \(Temporary Appointment\) Announcement](#)
- [Conservation Investments Coordinator](#)
- [NACD Applauds Release of DOI Programs Covered Under Justice40 Initiative | NACD](#)
- [Desk Guide to Accelerating Implementation of the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy](#)
- [Plant Materials Center update: June 30, 2022](#)
- [Job: Northwest Area Engineer](#)
- [WACD Board Adopts Work Plan and Budget](#)
- [2023 NACD Officer Elections](#)
- [Marion SWCD \(Oregon\) Seeks Financial Administrator](#)
- [Plant Materials Center update: June 16, 2022](#)

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

My musings for this edition are very brief because life has been very busy indeed!

I call your attention to the [2022 WACD dues cover letter](#). Writing it brought out memories of some great successes. It also recalled some difficult moments where we could have done better.

The word "we" could mean WACD, but I think it actually extends to our entire community. I don't mean to imply that WACD has been faultless. WACD has certainly made mistakes in the past 12 months, demonstrating more than once that we are just as human as everyone else. However, those errors are less likely to be made when our community of members and partners actively participates in the work of WACD. Such errors are more likely to be identified and corrected early when our community is engaged. Some of the dissent we have been hearing certainly does help us become aware of where we could do better.

It's relatively easy to "armchair quarterback" situations that are behind us. It is much more challenging to navigate difficult situations while they are occurring. This is partly because each of us sees, hears, and processes these situations differently. It is surprisingly difficult to pause "in the moment" so that all participants can hear and share. Even more difficult: giving our quiet members and partners the time to reflect and safe opportunities to provide their thoughts. We need to learn to give each other the grace and space to learn from each other.

If I pull back to the 40,000-foot level as I think about the difficult times, those moments present great opportunities to learn and grow. Our community members care about how WACD operates else they would not get upset when something goes awry. It's important to recognize that someone who is expressing their anger or frustration would not bother doing so if they did not care. Caring provides energy that all of us can use in the constant work of becoming better.

Helping conservation districts succeed is why WACD exists. The environment in which districts operate is far different than it was just a few decades ago. WACD must evolve, too, in order to best meet the needs of our member districts. We can only evolve when our community helps us do so. As we evolve, we can continue to help districts succeed. We do this work because we care.

In hindsight, I appreciate the speed bumps that WACD has thumped over in the last 12 months. Those moments have helped me recognize some key attributes that help make WACD successful. Those moments also provide some stark contrast that reveals facets of WACD that could be improved. What I know is that WACD will continue to get better as we embrace our strengths and work to overcome our weaknesses.

I encourage your involvement with WACD. I value your support. I honor your commitment and humanity. I appreciate the unique totality known as "you." You — individually and collectively

— are what makes the entire conservation delivery system work.

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>



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## 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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