



Washington Association of Conservation Districts

5 Things to Know for August 18, 2022

Updated District Directory Published

The August 2, 2022 edition of the District Directory is now available online at <https://hub.wadistricts.org/resources/contacts/>. Please examine it for correctness and let us know if you find information that needs to be updated.

This page is protected by a simple password to help block robots from harvesting your contact information. The password is eight characters long and is formed by the abbreviation (all in capital letters) for the Washington Association of Conservation Districts and the year that WACD was formed. This year, we celebrate the 80th anniversary of WACD's formation in 1942. If those clues don't help you figure out the password, just drop a note to Tom or Ryan at oly@wacd.org to get it!

Dear Thomas,

1 – October Area Meeting Schedule

This year's schedule of fall area association meetings is now set. WACD will be working with the six host districts to prepare for the yearly sit-down between state leadership and local districts as well as the necessary area business of electing representatives to the WACD Board of Directors and deliberating resolutions to send to the state meeting.

- Tuesday, October 11th – Coupeville – NW Area Meeting hosted by Whidbey Island CD
- Wednesday, October 12th – Chehalis – SW Area Meeting hosted by Lewis CD
- Wednesday, October 19th – Waterville – NC Area Meeting hosted by South Douglas CD
- Thursday, October 20th – Davenport – NE Area Meeting hosted by Lincoln County CD
- Tuesday, October 25th – Clarkston – SE Area Meeting hosted by Asotin County CD
- Wednesday, October 26th – White Salmon – SC Area Meeting hosted by Underwood CD

WACD will centralize information about these meetings on the 2022 Area Association Meetings page at <https://hub.wadistricts.org/annual/2022meetings/areas/>. Each host is preparing venue information and will be releasing registration information shortly.

2 – WACD Annual Conference: Save the Date

The 2022 WACD Annual Conference and Business Meeting on the Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday after Thanksgiving will be held at the Wenatchee Convention Center. This year, that means marking November 28, 29, and 30 as the dates for WACD's 80th-anniversary annual conference. We should have a draft page on the 2022 WACD Annual Conference available soon at <https://hub.wadistricts.org/annual/2022meetings/conference/>.

Anyone interested in serving on the Planning Team to help organize conference programming and the other aspects of a statewide conference is asked to contact [Ryan Baye](#).

3 – WACD Award Nominations now Open

Each year WACD seeks to recognize those in the community who went above and beyond in their roles. We seek to acknowledge the dedication and special work as noticed by peers and others impacted by the performance of a few special individuals. There are [seven awards now open for nominations](#), ranging from Associate Supervisor of the Year to Educator of the Year and more who might deserve an acknowledgement.

4 – August 2nd Primary Wrap-Up

WACD's Lobbyist Brynn Brady provided an overview of Washington's primary results, connecting the dots on this year's numerous state House and Senate races. [Her wrap-up](#), written before the final votes were counted but when the outcomes were no longer in doubt, discusses the important legislative races and tries to connect the dots from the various races.

5 – Plant Materials Center update

Sales remain ahead of last year's record pace, while the crew prepared the ground for fall planting and summer prevention practices. Jim Brown, Director of Nursery Operations, covers the current sales projections and writes in-depth on the role of beneficial fungi at the PMC. There's all that and more in [this week's PMC Update](#) on the WACD HUB.

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

- [PMC Update for August 18, 2022](#)
- [WACD Award Nominations now Open](#)
- [Regional Fisheries Coalition \(RFC\) seeks Strategic Coordinator](#)
- [WSDA Seeks Sr. Eastern WA Nutrient Management Inspector](#)
- [USDA Investing \\$197 Million in Partner-Driven, Locally led Conservation | NRCS](#)

- [National Conservation Planning Partnership \(NCP\) - HHB Awards](#)
- [A brief look at large wildfires in the United States this week | Wildfire Today](#)
- [Okanogan CD seeks Grants and Contract Director](#)
- [Primary Wrap-Up](#)
- [Plant Materials Center update: August 4, 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.

From your Executive Director

My "aha!" moment this morning came from chatting with the barista at my favorite coffee stand about the local ham radio club in Mason County. I realized it might be a universal truth among member-based groups: that our actions can engage everyone by investing in a broad spectrum of interests, or our actions may marginalize those who aren't aligned with where we are investing our time, energy, and money.

Most commonly, we hear this sense of being left out when people talk about urban vs. rural interests. From our rural members, I often hear laments about how much of our conservation delivery system is focused on the most urbanized landscapes. Such places have more people. More people means more state legislators, and more legislators often mean an urban-leaning focus when we see new laws passed and new budgets adopted.

The sentiment that usually hums under the surface in many rural districts is: we're not getting what we need because the big, urban areas get the most attention and resources. Talk about feeling marginalized!

Perhaps this presents us all with an opportunity here to help legislators understand that rural and urban issues are interconnected...that how resources are managed in rural areas often impacts urban areas. As a generalization, I'll say that most of our urban areas are downstream from some kind of higher, more rugged landscape. Those rugged landscapes tend to be rural. Stuff flows downhill, so what happens upslope may impact conditions in urban areas. I'll generalize some more and say that much of the conservation work in an urban area is about repairing damage, while in rural areas we see more opportunities to prevent damage. From an equity point of view, it doesn't make much sense to focus most resources on urban problems (correction and repair) at the expense of prevention and protection activities in rural landscapes. Conservation in rural areas helps prevent degraded conditions in urban areas.

As an aside, I loved living in Clackamas County, Oregon because with just a five-minute drive, I could be in beautiful fields and forests. I could get re-centered on farming, food production, wildlife, and serene beauty within moments of leaving our urban home footprint. Working with landowners in rural and urban settings, and especially by working with landowners at the interface between undeveloped and developed landscapes, I recognized how intricately linked

are our rural and urban environments.

Today, we see a lot of emphasis on urban this and urban that. Let me describe that as our urban room. What about our folks in our rural rooms? If the linkage between rural and urban continues to be undervalued, then I suppose we'll continue to see this sense of division between rural and urban. If, however, we can help legislators see how those rooms are not just part of a bigger house but are interconnected such that what happens in the rural space affects the urban space, then we might have a chance to see a more equitable distribution of resources to help conservation districts become more effective.

It would probably help if we stopped reinforcing this division in the way we speak. Our word choices do matter. I much prefer viewing rural and urban issues as synergistic where improvements are interdependent. Instead of continuing to use divisive descriptors, let's talk about how investing in clean water (that flows down to cities), strong food systems (that help feed city residents), and healthy forests (that help hold soil and clear polluted air) benefit urban dwellers. If we can touch the hearts and minds of legislators on this point, I'll bet we can harvest more resources to apply to our incredible rural landscapes.

In amateur radio, [we say "73"](#) to close a conversation. Few radio operators realize that in the 1800s, 73 was the Western Union code for "my love to you." Usage today is more prosaic. Today, 73 means thanks, goodbye, and hope to see you soon.

From me to you: 73!

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>



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