



Washington Association of Conservation Districts

5 Things to Know for October 20, 2022

2022 marks WACD's 80th anniversary, a remarkable achievement by our entire conservation community

Conservation



Is Everyone's Business

Dear weblinx,

1 – Supporting the Commission's Decision Packages

Every two years, the Governor is required to present a draft budget to the legislature. That budget of his priorities and programs is released in late November/early December. Ahead of that release, he works with the Office of Financial Management to prioritize funding priorities.

Where WACD and districts can play a role in supporting programs right now is by showing support for the Conservation Commission before those decisions are made. We've written a sample letter for districts to use as a template for their own use, speaking to why you believe state funding is necessary for your district programs. That [template and additional information](#) is available on the Hub.

2 – Resolutions from Area Association meetings are accumulating!

As this edition of the Five Things newsletter goes to press, five of six area association annual meetings have been completed. Last week, the Northwest and Southwest areas met. This week, the North Central, Northeast, and Southeast areas met Wednesday - Friday (and why this week's 5 Things is coming out on Saturday).

Some interesting resolutions have been brought forward. Clean copies of resolutions from all area meetings will be posted to the [Resolutions tab](#) on the Hub [area association annual meeting page](#).

Resolutions that have passed so far:

- **NC / Foster Creek CD:** review of FSA practice standards.
- **NC / Okanogan CD:** Ecology stock water policy.
- **NC / Okanogan CD:** Ecology water bank program.
- **NC / Okanogan CD:** WSCC cost-share rates on public lands.
- **NE / Stevens County CD:** Continue streamlining environmental restoration, protection, and enhancement permitting process.
- **NE / Stevens County CD:** Stock water rights.
- **NW / Pierce CD:** dropping population criteria and removing per parcel maximum annual rate under RCW 89.08.400(3)(a).
- **NW / Skagit CD:** Reform conservation easement processes and funding.
- **NW / Whidbey Island CD:** moving the HABs Work Group recommendations forward.
- **SE / Whitman CD:** Good Faith contracts with FSA
- **SE / Palouse CD:** Proposed Legislation Regarding CD Elections for 2023 Session
- **SW / Clark CD:** increase shared conservation district resources.
- **SW / Thurston CD:** dropping population criteria and removing per parcel maximum annual rate under RCW 89.08.400(3)(a).

Resolutions from areas that passed move on to the appropriate WACD committee for review and a recommendation of DO PASS or DO NOT PASS. The resolutions go to the floor of the

WACD annual business meeting on November 30 for discussion and decision by voters from conservation districts in good standing. Districts that have paid their annual WACD dues before the start of the November 30 business meeting are considered to be in good standing and their supervisors can present resolutions, vote, and be elected to the WACD Board of Directors.

Next week, WACD will participate in the last of six area association meetings when the South Central Area Association of Conservation Districts meetings in White Salmon. Dates and times are detailed at <https://hub.wadistricts.org/annual/2022meetings/areas/#dates>.

3 – WACD Annual Conference update: Registration is open!

Registration for the WACD Annual Meeting is now open! Registration for the Annual Conference on Monday and Tuesday and for the Business Meeting on Wednesday, whether you're planning to participate online or in-person, can all be done on one form – [just click here](#).

WACD is offering a single price for conference registration and all meals, \$425 per person. As in years past, we are discounting registration for new supervisors to encourage their attendance and meet the statewide community. There will be a dedicated new supervisor training session on Monday morning for supervisors elected or appointed in 2020, 2021, or 2022.

If your district or organization is willing to participate in the district poster session on Monday afternoon, there will be discounted registration for the individual who will be presenting. Each participant will be given a table where you can set up brochures, displays, or demonstration models. That person will be asked to present on a topic the district would be proud to showcase for the statewide audience: whether it be a recent project, a longtime partnership, a successful program, or something else.

Hotel reservations for the WACD annual conference at the Coast Wenatchee Center Hotel can also be made. Rooms are available at the government per diem rate (as low as \$98/night) for Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday nights (November 27, 28, 29, and 30). Up-to-date information will be posted to the [Hub page for the 2022 annual conference](#).

Monday, November 28th:

- We'll have a special session in the morning for new supervisors. New supervisors will be eligible for free registration for the annual conference.
- After lunch, we are planning a session on inclusion that will include stories from conservation districts. Several folks have agreed to share their experiences. After that, we'll have time for people to identify their concerns about incorporating inclusion into their district programs and services. Those concerns will be captured for future discussion and action.
- Attendees will be able to visit vendor tables and talk about conservation projects at district poster sessions.
- Before dinner, we'll have a President's Reception, followed by dinner.

Tuesday, November 29th:

- Tuesday morning dawns with a focus on the future, i.e., the Farm Bill. We think we have a great personage lined up to join our Farm Bill team of presenters so stay tuned as this develops.

- After lunch, the Washington State Conservation Commission has an afternoon of program topics to share.
- We'll have a banquet dinner that night and it appears the Envirothon auction will be happening then, too.
- Somewhere in the schedule we'll slip in a session on the 2023 Legislature, including how to best work with your legislators and predictions of some key topics for the 2023 session.

Wednesday, November 30th: Wednesday will be the annual business meeting where we hear about the work of WACD and where voters discuss and decide on resolutions.

4 – We're nearing the last call for WACD Award Nominations

WACD's many awards, including the new Wildlife Farmer and Wildlife Steward Awards are nearing the [October 28th deadline](#) for nominations. Please consider writing a nomination for one of the new awards or [one of the other eight awards](#) WACD hopes to grant this year.

- Wildlife Steward Award - [Nomination Form Available Here](#)
- Large Farmer Award - [Nomination Form Available Here](#)
- Small Farmer Award - [Nomination Form Available Here](#)

5 – Plant Material Center news

This week's PMC update includes interesting information on the challenge presented by the unusually long, dry fall season we are experiencing. You can view [this week's PMC update](#) on the WACD Hub

PMC Director of Nursery Operations, Jim Brown, also updates us on a recent conference he attended. Reading between the lines, one takeaway is that all nursery operators are struggling to cope with increased demand and wondering what the future holds.

Washington Conservation Society

Environmental Education Mini-grants

A key goal of the Washington Conservation Society (WCS) is to support educational opportunities for youth by sponsoring environmental/conservation education programs in Washington State. To that end, the WCS will set aside an annual contribution, the amount to be determined by the WCS Board of Directors, which will be utilized to provide grants to members to assist in funding environmental/conservation education programs for youth as the first priority for funding. [Applications are accepted until November 1st.](#)

Leaving a Legacy Program

Each year, WCS publishes Leaving a Legacy, a memorial and celebratory book of conservationists who have made a notable impact on the natural resources in Washington State. Inductees include past and present Supervisors, district volunteers, and agency partners. The book includes photos and biographical information. More information about the program and a digital copy of [the book can be found on the WCS website.](#)

If you are aware of a past conservation district supervisor or employee who has passed, please

reach out to the WCS folks so that they can seek information for the Leaving a Legacy book.

Become a Member

The goals of the WCS are to support conservation activities, natural resource education programs, and to recognize and honor individuals who exemplify the ethic and practice of sound conservation principles. Your membership directly supports WCS's Environmental Education Mini-grant Program. [Become a member today.](#)

Recent Posts on the Hub

- [Plant Materials Center update: October 20, 2022](#)
- [Support Letter Template Available](#)
- [Plant Materials Center update: October 13, 2022](#)
- [Conservation Specialist \(Term\) Announcement – October 2022](#)
- [HABs Work Group Produces Report and Recommendations](#)
- [Oregon health advisory warns of toxic contaminants in lamprey | OPB](#)
- [Snohomish CD seeks an Engineer](#)
- [Plant Materials Center update: October 6, 2022](#)
- [WACD PMC seeking Farm Operations Supervisor](#)
- [Okanogan Land Trust Seeks a Conservation Associate](#)

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

Ag and Water Quality Advisory Committee

Last week, I represented WACD at a meeting of the [Agriculture and Water Quality Advisory Committee](#). This was an informative meeting. If you're interested in what was discussed, check out the [October agenda](#).

No-till and inclusion

I have a relatively brief reflection this week. My heart and mind are full from visiting with so many great conservation professionals and leaders over the last week!

As I drove from area meeting to area meeting through wheat field after wheat field, I thought about early in my conservation career the resistance that no-till farming generated. I recall the days when farmers were calling each other misguided (and much more colorful words) for taking a chance on an unproven planting method. Detractors seized on every failure and made

sure to herald the lack of viability of no-tillage farming to everyone who might listen.

Nevertheless, no-till spread. Despite the naysayers, despite the neighbors-pitted-against-neighbors discomfort, it spread.

Why was it so resisted? For some, it felt threatening when their neighbors started trying a different method. This is entirely understandable when you think about how precarious farming can be. Trying something new presents the risk of financial loss, and with so few whacks at profitability, it makes sense to minimize risk whenever possible. And how is risk minimized? Keep doing what you know works.

No-till upset that equation. It succeeded (although in the eyes of some, it still is too risky or too unproven). For some operations, it proved a better method where it counts: after all of the revenues and expenses are tallied.

Our conservation district community tends to like no-till because it promotes healthier soil and helps to keep soil on the farm and out of streams. Where it works, it is a win-win for the producer and for the environment.

Why this soliloquy on resistance to no-till? Because I see similar reactions whenever I talk about diversity and inclusion. That approach is threatening to some and exciting to others. We have naysayers and supporters. My guess is that eventually, we'll see that just like no-till, it works best in the places where conditions are right.

Does that mean inclusion is something a conservation district should avoid? I don't believe so. Unlike changing a farming practice, when a conservation district tries something new they aren't usually risking the viability of the entire district operation. After all, how much risk is there if a district tries to find people it hasn't served yet? Reaching some new people can be a way to invigorate programs and accomplish some things that are appreciated by those new customers.

For a humorous popular culture metaphor, consider Dr. Venckman's statement in Ghostbusters as he's trying to persuade the mayor to stop a supernatural upheaval: "*Lenny, you will have saved the lives of millions of registered voters.*" Creating some appreciation with new customers can certainly spill over into positive things said about your district to local and state elected officials. That can't hurt!

Always 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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