



Washington Association of Conservation Districts

5 Things to Know for October 27, 2022

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

Conservation



Is Everyone's Business

Dear Thomas,

1 – WACD annual conference and business meeting update

Hotel registration deadline

November 17th is the deadline to make hotel reservations at the Coast Wenatchee Center Hotel. See the October 11th news item on the [2022 WACD Annual Conference page](#) for the information you need to make reservations. One change has occurred: we negotiated group rates for Sunday night, November 27th so those of you who wish to come to Wenatchee on Sunday can enjoy the conference discount.

Conference registration deadline

November 18th is the deadline to register with WACD for the conference. Registration information is in the October 21st news item on the [2022 WACD Annual Conference page](#). After November 18th, conference registration will cost \$50 more per person. We do this to set our attendee number for the Wenatchee Convention Center by that date and late additions cost us more. WACD is pricing the conference registration at a revenue neutral cost this year.

Sessions are filling out

You'll see on the [Sessions tab](#) of the [2022 WACD Annual Conference page](#) that more detail is available about sessions. WACD will continue to publish more detail as we get commitments from presenters.

We will have an online payment platform for sponsors

We are currently working on setting sponsor levels. Sponsor support of the Annual Conference means we can keep costs down for members and partners. Sponsors also provide value in the information they share with attendees. Please do contact any organizations, large and small, that you think would like to support your conservation district work. We will have a sponsor letter available within a week.

We have received some requests to provide an online payment portal for sponsors. WACD staff are investigating two such platforms and expect to establish one by the end of next week. If the payment portal works as well as we think it will, we anticipate being able to offer this service to registrants next year.

2 – All Area Association meetings are in the books

Resolutions are published

On October 27th, WACD attended the South Central Area Association of Conservation Districts annual meeting. No resolutions were brought forward from the South Central Area. This year, 12 resolutions were adopted at the area level and now advance to the state level. WACD's policy committees will review and adopt recommendations for the membership to consider when gathered on November 30th at the Annual Business Meeting in Wenatchee. Below is a list of the steps to be taken between the area meetings and the Annual Meeting.

Resolutions are assigned to committees

On October 28th, the WACD Executive Committee assigned resolutions to their respective policy committees. Find the list of resolutions and committee assignments on the [Resolutions tab](#) of the [2022 WACD Annual Conference page](#).

Some committee members have changed

Also on October 28th, President Mumford made some changes in committee members. Find the current rosters for the [Natural Resources Policy Committee](#) and the [Legislative, Bylaws, and District Policies Committee](#) on the [Committees page](#).

November 7th: Committees review resolutions

A virtual meeting will be held on November 7th for [committees to review and discuss each resolution](#). Anyone wishing to speak to the resolutions is welcome to attend.

November 17th: Committees vote on resolutions

Ten days later, on November 17th, [committees will meet again to vote on their recommendations to the resolutions](#).

November 21st: WACD Board of Directors meeting

Finally, on November 21st, the WACD Board of Directors will meet. One of their duties at this meeting will be to decide on advancing proposed changes to WACD's Bylaws.

There is one proposal to allow no more than one of each area association's two area directors to be a conservation district manager/executive. At the South Central Area meeting, an alternative idea was brought forward to remove the limitation on committee members the WACD President can appoint. Currently, committees may have no more than three members who are not conservation district supervisors.

3 – Area Director elections

The North Central Area voted to re-elect John McLean (Foster Creek CD) to another two-year term as one of their two area directors to the WACD Board.

The Northeast Area Association of Conservation Districts elected John W. Floyd (Pend Oreille CD) as an Area Director. Jon Birnbaum (Stevens County CD) had to resign his Area Director position in mid-term. Jeff Schibel (Lincoln County CD) was re-elected for another two year term.

At the South Central Area meeting, Jack Clark (Benton CD) was re-elected as an Area Director. The other South Central Area Director position remains open. This vacancy can be filled by the 2023 South Central Area Executive Committee as per the area bylaws.

One of two Area Director positions remains open in the Southeast Area. Mary Collins (Palouse CD) was re-elected as Area Director, with no one stepping forward to fill the other vacancy. This vacancy can be filled by the 2023 Southeast Area Executive Committee as per the area bylaws.

WACD encourages conservation district supervisors to become an Area Director. WACD Board members learn additional leadership skills and become better versed at understanding and assisting the many ways local conservation district is delivered.

4 – Today is the deadline for award nominations

Get your nominations to us by the end of today! 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 – 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](#) are available on the Hub.

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: November 3, 2022](#)
- [OACD Recruiting for Executive Director](#)

- [NRCS has a new website](#)
- [Riparian Plant Propagation Program Manager](#)
- [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](#)

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

Reflections on Area Association meetings

It's been so long since we gathered together in person that it almost felt like meeting everyone anew. There were faces we've known for many years present, but there were also new people in the meetings. The spirit at each meeting was palpable and positive.

At each Area Association meeting, I was struck by how much is getting accomplished by conservation districts. You expect a long list of accomplishments from big districts. What was amazing was the suite of work getting done by smaller districts. Every district brought forward many great examples of locally-led voluntary conservation. It was extremely heartening to see and hear how Washington's conservation districts — big and small! — are thriving.

At the same time, the old conservation district manager in me couldn't help but wonder how this amount of work was getting done. District staff are managing more grants and more projects than I've seen before. They are facing more complexity with more accountability than ever. Projects are getting bigger in scope and more expensive, and both of these factors are really stressing the project management and cash management skills of staff. Recruitment and retention are big challenges in many districts. Despite all this, conservation districts continue to grow and excel. It is truly exciting to be a part of the conservation district community!

As we prepare for the [2022 WACD Annual Conference and Business Meeting](#), I urge you to remember why our community does this work. We do it because we believe that local communities often know best how to use natural resources in ways that assure those resources will be available for present and future generations. [WACD's 10 guiding principles](#) are value statements that are probably shared by many of our members. Please take a moment to review them and to remember that we come together because of the strong bonds and beliefs we share.

Not everything is rosy, of course. During the last legislative session, we fended off an attack on the efficacy of voluntary conservation, parlaying that into a big slug of funding for the

Conservation Commission and conservation districts. That pressure to shift resources toward regulation has not disappeared. Now, more than ever, we need to present a unified voice that reflects the values we hold most dear.

Please join us at the 2022 WACD Annual Conference and Business Meeting to improve your knowledge and skills, bask in the glow of your great accomplishments, and drill into some big issues and opportunities that are coming to our conservation district community. These conversations will also help prepare you to engage more effectively with your legislators. Those elected officials are key partners in helping us maintain a voluntary approach to conservation and in getting the resources you need to accomplish your local conservation priorities. WACD appreciates them, just as we appreciate you.

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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