



# Washington Association of Conservation Districts

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## **5 Things to Know for November 10, 2022**

Only two-and-a-half weeks until members gather together in Wenatchee for WACD's 80th-anniversary conference!

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# Conservation



## **Is Everyone's Business**

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## Dear Thomas,

We have significant updates for you below, but **first, an urgent and important piece of business**: if your conservation district has not yet sent a letter of support for the Washington State Conservation Commission's budget request, there is still time. We suggest sending it directly to the Director of the Office of Financial Management, David Schumacher no later than Friday, November 18th. You can reach David at [David.Schumacher@ofm.wa.gov](mailto:David.Schumacher@ofm.wa.gov). Your local voice is helpful as the Governor's proposed budget is prepared.

## 1 – Latest WACD annual conference and business meeting update

### Latest news:

- **Regular registration for the conference ends on November 18th** so please register today! Links to register for the annual are available under the [Register tab](#).
- **WACD has negotiated group rates at the Coast Wenatchee Center Hotel**. Rooms are available at the government per diem rate starting at \$98/night for Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday nights (November 27, 28, 29, and 30). Reserve your room by November 17th. Links are available under the [Register tab](#).
- **Speakers are confirming they will be attending** and we'll get speaker profiles posted soon.
- **A shorter, easier link for the conference** is now available: <https://hub.wadistricts.org/conference>
- **Sponsors are joining us** and **partners are sending us their reports**.
- **Draft minutes of the 2021 WACD annual business meeting** are now available, as is the **recording of that meeting**. Find these resources on the [annual conference page](#) under the Business meeting tab.

### What are poster sessions?

On Monday, November 28th, we have a 90-minute block titled **District and vendor tabling session**. This is a space for conservation districts and vendors to have displays, handouts, or posters that showcase successes and other information for conference attendees. This is our first year with a poster session so we expect a slow start but hopefully, this will become a key part of information sharing and networking between conservation districts in the future!

## 2 – Resolutions are with committees

WACD's two policy committees met on November 7th to hear resolutions from sponsors and ask questions. If you weren't able to attend, two resolutions were combined into a single proposal and one conservation district made important revisions to its resolution. These are listed on the Resolutions tab at <https://hub.wadistricts.org/conference> near the bottom of the page under **Alternative Resolutions After the First Committee Meetings**. The committees will meet again on November 17th to review final changes and vote for DO PASS or DO NOT PASS non-binding recommendations on resolutions.

## 3 – Election recap

As we write this newsletter less than 48 hours after the November 8th general elections, some outcomes are clear but many are not. WACD's lobbyist, Brynn Brady, is keeping WACD

leadership apprised of changes during this fluid time. One note we received from her is that many counties tallied fewer than expected ballots on Wednesday. WACD will publish a summary once the dust settles.

Closer to home, some of our own people are running for office. We can share that it appears that Sue Marshall (Clark CD supervisor) is leading in her bid for a seat on the Clark County Council. If she prevails, the Clark CD will gain a much-needed ally. Also, Marie Gluesenkamp Pérez (Underwood CD supervisor) is leading in her bid for US Representative in the 3rd Congressional District.

#### **4 – WACD Board of Directors meeting on November 21st**

The WACD Board of Directors will hold a regular meeting on Monday, November 21st at 6 pm. This Zoom meeting will be open to all. Meeting information will be posted to WACD's public-facing site at <https://wadistricts.org/board-of-directors>.

The WACD Board of Directors will hear any proposed changes to WACD's bylaws at this meeting. One change discussed at the area meetings would allow one of the two area director positions in each area to be held by a conservation district manager/executive director. Since then, conversation has shifted toward the possibility of removing the limitation on who the WACD President can appoint to WACD committees. The WACD Board of Directors needs to hear your comments before the November 21st meeting. Please send your comments to the Executive Office staff at [oly@wacd.org](mailto:oly@wacd.org) so that we can compile and transmit them.

#### **5 – Plant Materials Center update**

Learn what happens when temperatures drop below freezing at the Plant Materials Center but the plants are hardened against freeze damage. Expenses are up but so are sales. We are excited to report the hiring of a new Farm Operations Supervisor! Oscar Arias brings extensive farm and mechanics experience to the PMC. [Read the update for more!](#)

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## **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 sets aside an annual contribution in an amount determined by the WCS Board of Directors that is used to provide grants to members. Those grants 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 dis,

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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.](#)

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## **Recent Posts on the Hub**

- [Taking Soil Health Principles to Practice: SoilCon 2023](#)
- [Plant Materials Center update: November 10, 2022](#)
- [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](#)

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**

### ***We need a codex for annual meetings!***

A long-time complaint of mine is that for large annual meetings with many events and sessions, it is hard to know what to register for. You might think it is just our newer folks that don't know quite what to do but just as often, it's also our experienced people. Much about such meetings is presented in cryptic terms or not explained at all.

Now, more than ever, the conservation delivery system functions as a whole cloth consisting of conservation district decision-makers, professional conservation staff, and partners of all kinds. Gone are the days when the folks who met over kitchen tables with cooperators and worked with them to implement conservation were only conservation district supervisors. Gone are the days when conservation districts were often viewed as mere training grounds for people who wanted to work for the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and other

agencies.

Today, our conservation districts function as a whole body, with all parts working together to put conservation on the ground in their communities.

And so as I look at the WACD annual meeting sessions, I begin to realize that even while I am critical of others who provide insufficient explanations, that finger is also pointing right back at me. Below, then, is a short version of a simplified codex for the WACD annual conference and business meeting. Please do contact Ryan or Tom at [oly@wacd.org](mailto:oly@wacd.org) if you have any questions whatsoever about the upcoming conference.

**Sunday, November 27:** People will be arriving at the hotel and checking in. All meals and activities are on your own on Sunday.

**Monday, November 28:** *Breakfast is for everyone.* The morning session (Focus on New Supervisors) is not limited to new supervisors. If we're honest with ourselves, we'll realize that new district managers need this session just as much as new supervisors do. If you are a new or new-ish district manager or executive director, please join the group of new supervisors and share in the learning.

*Lunch is for everyone.* After lunch, a two-hour diversity, equity, and inclusion session will start with conservation districts (mainly staff, but supervisors can and should participate) sharing their experiences as they have worked to become more inclusive. After that, a facilitator will help the group uncover concerns and issues that conservation districts may have about DEI work. We will be sure to capture those thoughts so that they can be charted and scheduled and worked on as a community.

After the DEI session will be 90 minutes for you to network, visit district poster sessions, and meet with sponsors. There is a little of everything here for conservation district supervisors, employees, and partners.

Before dinner will be a President's Reception. What does this mean? It is code for: we're going to mingle with each other under the guise of celebrating WACD's 80th anniversary! *The President's Reception is for everyone, as is dinner.*

**Tuesday, November 29:** *Breakfast is for everyone.* The day starts with comments from a panel of partners. Remembering that Washington's conservation districts operate as a partnership between board members, staff, and partners, there will be something for everyone in this introduction to the day.

Then we launch directly into the new Farm Bill under the expert leadership of NRCS Western Regional Conservationist Astor Boozer. You'll hear what is going on now and learn where you can plug into this work.

As we approach lunchtime, we'll also hear from two legislators as they talk about how to work with the Legislature and what they see coming in the 2023 legislative session. Knowing that conservation district staff have just as much contact with legislators and their aides as do conservation district supervisors, this session is also for everyone.

*The buffet-style lunch is for everyone.*

*Tuesday afternoon is for everyone:* conservation district supervisors, staff, and partners. We will hear what is going on at the State Conservation Commission and with Enduris, both key partners in the conservation delivery system.

There is free time before dinner to network, and then a *banquet-style dinner for everyone* is on the schedule.

**Wednesday, November 30:** This is the WACD annual business meeting. *Breakfast is for everyone and all are welcome in the meeting*, but most of the focus will be on resolutions that are voted on by conservation district supervisors from districts in good standing. Voters may need some support from their conservation district staff in some cases. We'll describe this in more detail as the date approaches. If you have never been to the business meeting, resolutions are presented along with their respective committee's DO PASS or DO NOT PASS recommendation. Debate ensues, and often wording is amended. Eventually, resolutions are adopted or not adopted by voters. Later, WACD officers are elected and the western region Conservation Commission member is elected.

I hope this helps and please do reach out if you would like more explanation or wish to share your thoughts!

Always 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>



Natural Resources Conservation Service



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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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