



Washington Association of Conservation Districts

5 Things to Know for January 5, 2023

The **Welcome to 2023** and **Get Ready For the Legislature** edition



[Photo by Engin Akyurt / Pexels.com](#)

Dear Thomas,

Welcome to 2023

I'll open with author Ray Bradbury who was speaking to the power of cumulative action in this [quote](#):

"Action is hope. At the end of each day, when you've done your work, you lie there and think, Well, I'll be damned, I did this today. It doesn't matter how good it is, or how bad—you did it. At the end of the week you'll have a certain amount of accumulation. At the end of a year, you look back and say, I'll be damned, it's been a good year."

2022 was an action-filled year for our conservation district community and 2023 is already shaping up to be much the same. Fortunately, we have creative thinkers and doers throughout our statewide community. [Steve Jobs had something to say](#) about such people:

"My observation is that the doers are the major thinkers. The people that really create the things that change this industry are both the thinker and doer in one person. And if we really go back and we examine, you know, did Leonardo have a guy off to the side that was thinking five years out in the future what he would paint or the technology he would use to paint it? Of course not. Leonardo was the artist, but he also mixed all his own paints. He also was a fairly good chemist. He knew about pigments, knew about human anatomy. And combining all of those skills together, the art and the science, the thinking and the doing, was what resulted in the exceptional result. And there is no difference in our industry. The people that have really made the contributions have been the thinkers and the doers."

Jobs could have been talking about the great people — like you! —who work to make Washington State's conservation delivery system so effective!

Get ready for the Legislature

On Monday, January 9th, the next session of the Washington State Legislature begins. WACD staff are exceptionally busy during this time. Our Plant Materials Center group will be busy harvesting and packaging orders. Our Executive Office group will be busy advancing the [Association's priorities](#) and defending against actions that undermine conservation district effectiveness. WACD's entire operation is focused on meeting the needs of our member conservation districts.

During such a busy time, it becomes much harder to stay in touch with everyone. That doesn't mean you should not reach out to us. Please believe me when I say the best conversations we have are with our members, especially during this time of year. Even when we are feeling harried and rushed, we enjoy talking with you. Meanwhile, WACD staff will strive to keep you updated through the [Five Things newsletter](#) and through our [Legislative Updates](#).

Did you cancel your in-person conference attendance?

If you had paid for on-site attendance at the WACD annual conference and then canceled, WACD owes you or your district some money. But here's the thing: last-minute cancellations put a financial burden on WACD because we have to contractually commit to a minimum number of room nights and a minimum number of meals. That means WACD is on the hook to meet those minimums. When people don't show up as expected, WACD is left "holding the bag."

We recognize that often such cancellations are unavoidable. As we approached the 2022 annual conference, bad weather certainly caused several people to cancel their travel plans. Some folks caught the COVID bug or showed symptoms of COVID, and they chose to stay home. In both cases, I believe these people chose wisely. Your health and well-being are more

important than making one meeting! We do not want to put members at undue risk of harm.

What can WACD do that is fair to all? We will refund the in-person registration for anyone who canceled, except for the \$100 virtual participation charge. If more than one person from a district canceled their in-person attendance, WACD will charge the district a single \$100 virtual participation fee for those folks. If you or your district are in this boat, you should be hearing from Lori McLaughlin next week about this.

If you have concerns about how WACD plans to handle refunds for late cancellations, please contact me at exec@wadistricts.org or [\(360\) 999-5151 extension 101](tel:(360)999-5151). I would also like to hear if you think the date of the annual conference should be changed.

Support our sponsors

Please do support our generous sponsors. If you attended the WACD annual conference in Wenatchee you likely met some of them in person. Their support helped us provide a great conference at the lowest possible cost and they provided great information to attendees. In 2023 we will include a list of our sponsors near the end of each Five Things newsletter so that you always have a way to reach them. Let us know if we can help you make contact.

Always yours for conservation,

Tom Salzer, Executive Director



Five Things to Know

1 – Legislature convenes Monday, January 9th

This legislative session is a long one with the focus being the State's biennial budget. The Legislature convenes on Monday, January 9th, and is scheduled to adjourn on April 29th. Some key issues are already emerging. Thus, the focus of much of our Five Things items for the next couple of months will be on legislative topics...but we'll also keep you updated on other issues because as we all know, conservation never stops!

2 – Commission and WACD meetings in January

The Washington State Conservation Commission will hold a [regular business meeting on January 19th](#). Note that the location of the Commission meeting information on the [WSCC home page](#) has changed. It is now found under the "Get Involved" menu choice.

The Washington Association of Conservation Districts Board of Directors will hold a [work session on Monday, January 23rd](#).

3 – WACD Legislative Day set for February 8

Washington State's Legislature convenes on January 9, 2023. WACD will hold a Legislative Day on February 8 in Olympia to help conservation districts connect with legislators. These connections can be virtual or in-person. WACD expects legislators to offer both options. If your district is interested in coming to Olympia and requires assistance scheduling appointments with legislators, [register online](#) by January 6 or [contact Ryan Baye](#).

WACD staff are working with several hotels in the Olympia area to find sufficient event space for the Legislative Day breakfast and briefing. We are also working to get government-rate rooms for folks who come to town the night before. Stay tuned as we expect to lock in arrangements in the next week or so.

4 – Sign-up for WACD Legislative updates

Starting in January, WACD will publish a weekly newsletter dedicated to legislative information. It will be focused on tracking bills of interest to WACD and its member districts. The newsletter will include hints on participating in the legislative process along with general legislative news from our lobbyist Brynn Brady. If you aren't already a subscriber, we encourage you to make this one of your New Year's resolutions and [join our legislative email list](#)

5 – Annual conference recordings available

Recordings from the WACD annual conference and business meeting are now available. Find them on the 2022 conference page under the [Recordings tab](#). Please note that technical issues resulted in no recordings for Monday's sessions but we continue to try to recover that content.

More things...

- There is a lot going on in the [Plant Materials Center update for January 5, 2023!](#)
- [AgForestry is seeking applicants for Class 45](#)
- Note that the sign-up period for the [2023 NRCS Riparian Buffer Program](#) for producers will close on January 13th.
- Now available on the OFM website: [Riparian Taskforce Final Report: Facilitation Process and Recommendations](#) (PDF)
- WACD's [2023 Legislative priorities](#) (not yet updated with resolutions adopted in 2022)
- [NRCS defines "equity" and "underserved communities"](#)
- There are plenty of interesting links in the [WACD Reading List](#)

Recent Posts on the Hub

- [Plant Materials Center update: January 5, 2023](#)
- [NRCS Riparian Buffer Program Now Available to Producers](#)
- [Looking for Leaders in the Rough – Class 45 Applications Open Jan 15th](#)
- [Lewis County CD Resource Technician](#)
- [Weedwise Specialist \(CRISP\) Position Announcement](#)
- [Why do cyberattacks increase over the holiday season?](#)

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.

We appreciate our great 2022-2023 sponsors

Many thanks to our generous sponsors for helping us support Washington State's conservation districts. WACD encourages you to consider patronizing these sponsors in thanks for their important support:: <https://hub.wadistricts.org/annual/2022meetings/conference/#sponsors>



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