

[View this in your browser](#) | [Send us feedback](#)



Washington Association of Conservation Districts

5 Things to Know for April 13, 2023

Dear Thomas,

By now you have likely heard about the unexpected passing of [Okanogan CD](#) supervisor [Albert Roberts](#). Albert has been a quiet, strong thought leader and do-er in our community for 20 years. Many conservation districts have one or two people they lean on because those folks anchor them to what is true and important. The outpouring of grief and remembrances for Albert prove he was such a touchstone for the Okanogan CD. He will be missed.



A 2015 article in the Harvard Business Review speaks to the loss of a community member. [How to Handle Shared Grief at Work](#) outlines four elements of the grieving process for teams that have experienced the loss of a co-worker:

1. **Acknowledging.** It's important for the group to communicate the situation that they're in, both internally and to the outside world.
2. **Permitting.** When a colleague has died, the workplace should become a setting in which grief can be expressed and co-workers can openly empathize with each other.
3. **Celebrating.** Loss also provides an opportunity to celebrate a life.

4. **Choosing.** Grief and mourning don't end overnight. As the initial grief becomes less acute, it can be time for the group to choose ways of remembering their colleague.

We grieve for the loss of Albert and for those closest to him. A loss like this rocks the world for many in our community. We share those feelings of loss and sadness. Such feelings help us remember what is most important. We become more centered on one of the fundamental truths of our conservation work, and that is: people are the important piece that makes this system work.

Please take this opportunity to recognize the incredible people around you. They are — each and every one! — important. Today is the perfect time to let them know they are valued and appreciated.

THE FIVE THINGS TO KNOW

1 – Last Call: Share Budget Priorities With Your Legislators

In these final days of the 2023 legislative session, we are at the point where your letters to budget leaders can be influential. Last week, [WACD published a letter](#) to legislative budget leaders stressing the importance of funding for Conservation Technical Assistance and riparian restoration projects in the FY23-25 state budget. The Conservation Commission's financial staff also did an excellent job [detailing the differences](#) between the House and Senate proposals, and WACD staff would be happy to provide additional assistance.

This is the moment to add to this work with a letter to your own legislators. Your request for budget support from their home district will be influential and appreciated. Please aim for sending your letter to your legislators by the close of business on Monday, April 17th.

We expect a final budget to be released no later than Friday, April 21st.

2 – District Employee's Conference Open for Registration

[Registrations and scholarships are now open](#) for the 2023 WADE Training Conference. The WADE Conference will once again be at the Sleeping Lady in Leavenworth on **June 12-14**, 2023 with an option for virtual participation. A silent auction will be held again this year.

Early registration ends April 21st so **[check out the agenda](#)** and **[register and apply for a scholarship](#)**.

WADE is also seeking nominations for the 2023 Employee of the Year, to be presented at the WADE Conference. Nominations can be submitted to WADE VP Craig Nelson at Craig@okanogancd.org by **Friday May 5th**. The **[nomination form and criteria](#)** can be found on their website.

WADE



Conservation
from the Ground Up

3 – NACD President Op-Ed on Farm Bill: No "One Size Fits All"

NACD President Kim LaFleur penned a great **[opinion piece in Agri-Pulse](#)** about the Farm Bill, making the case for the importance of conservation tailored to each situation. There is more in her column worth reading and we recommend it.

4 – SCC Special Meeting Held

This week, the State Conservation Commission held a special meeting to discuss and act on the next steps in the process of finding their next executive director. The Commission voted to seek an outside firm to help recruit and hire a new director.

5 – WACD Board Meeting on April 17

The WACD Board of Directors will hold a regular business meeting on Monday, April 17 at 6:00 pm. Details will be posted on the **[Board Meetings page](#)** as they become available.

Recent Posts on the Hub

- [Week 13 General Legislative Review](#)
- [Plant Materials Center Update April 6, 2023](#)
- [Watershed Restoration and Assessment Intern](#)
- [WACD Budget Reconciliation Priorities](#)
- [Week 12 General Legislative Review](#)

- [Plant Materials Center Update March 30, 2023](#)

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>



- [USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service](#)
- [Washington State Conservation Commission](#)
- [Arrowleaf Consulting](#)
- [envu](#)
- [Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife](#)
- [The McGregor Company](#)
- [Enduris](#)
- [Pheasants Forever](#)
- [Rainier Seeds](#)
- [JTII](#)
- [BFI Native Seeds](#)
- [Northwest Farm Credit Services](#)
- [Wilbur-Ellis](#)
- [Plants of the Wild](#)

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!

[SUBSCRIBE](#)

Visit the Hub to stay informed!

<https://hub.wadistricts.org>

We welcome your [feedback](#)

[Subscribe](#) | [Unsubscribe](#) | [Manage your subscription](#) | [Contact WACD support](#) | [Send us feedback](#)
1219 11th Ave SE, Olympia, WA 98501
(360) 999-5151

[MailPoet](#)