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# Washington Association of Conservation Districts

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## 5 Things to Know for April 20, 2023

From James Clear: *"It's hard to build momentum if you're dividing your attention."*

As you can see in the [most recent photos from the WACD Plant Materials Center](#), spring is upon us. This marks the transition to the most intensive conservation implementation period our community will experience all year.

Unlike most years, our community is also facing several changes this year. The National Association of Conservation Districts has a new president and we are seeing some significant reorganization, all intended to better serve member districts. The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service is facing growth in staffing and budgets that none of us have seen in our lifetimes. Our own State Conservation Commission is working on finding a great new executive director. Washington's legislature is very close to landing on a final budget package that will affect all of our conservation districts.

Each one of these things is a big change. Taken together, they can feel overwhelming. This is where you come in. The best way to counter those feelings of being overwhelmed is to do what you do best: focus your time and energy on resolving local conservation needs. If all the "stuff" at other layers in our conservation system gets to be too much, turn inward and work on tasks that are truly meaningful in your community. When I've done that, I have found that it recenters me on what is most important and it renews my sense of value in conservation work.

This season of change also marks a time when our entire community looks forward. In this context, what I get from James Clear's quote above is: *it is hard to be successful if we are looking over our shoulders at the past while simultaneously trying to move forward*. It is a great time to grant some grace to those who are having trouble letting go of the past. Springtime makes this a bit easier to do as we all begin to spend more time outside, doing this wonderful work we call conservation.

Even though change creates uncertainty and stress, the strength of our community and our constant tendency to look toward the future also create hope. I am optimistic that our community is going to have an incredible conservation season ahead! I've seen this happen over and over again for 30 years and have no reason to doubt it now.

Always yours for conservation,

Tom Salzer, Executive Director

# THE FIVE THINGS TO KNOW

## 1 – Budget Update

We had thought that the budget would be published today but yesterday we learned this is now scheduled for Saturday, April 22:

*The Chief Clerk of the House has called a meeting for the purpose of signing the conference committee report on ESSB 5187 - Making 2023-2025 fiscal biennium operating appropriations and 2021-2023 fiscal biennium second supplemental operating appropriations. The following members have been appointed to attend the 4/22/2023 12:00 PM conference committee: Representative Bergquist, Representative Ormsby, Senator Robinson, Senator Rolfes, Representative Stokesbary, Senator L. Wilson.*

Conference meetings can be viewed on TVW at <https://twv.org>. Conference documents on budget bills will be available on the [LEAP website](#) (LEAP is the Legislative Evaluation and Accountability Program Committee) at the start of the meeting.

## 2 - District Employee's Conference Early Registration Ends Tomorrow

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

If you've never attended a WADE Conference at the Sleeping Lady in Leavenworth, please consider attending. This year it will be held on **June 12-14, 2023** with an option for virtual participation. A silent auction will be held again this year.

Here's a list of the different focus areas:

- Admin/Finance
- Education, Communication, & Outreach
- Farms & Fields
- Forestry & AgroForestry
- IT/GIS
- Management & Leadership
- Riparian Restoration

# WADE



Conservation  
from the Ground Up

## 3 – Employee of the Year Nominations

The Washington Association of Conservation Districts is seeking nominations for the 2023 Employee of the Year award. This award is presented to an outstanding conservation district

employee during the annual WADE Conference. The [submission form](#) and [award guidelines](#) can be found on their website (<https://sites.google.com/site/wadistrictemployees/>)

Nominations must be e-mailed to Craig Nelson, WADE Vice-President ([craig@okanogancd.org](mailto:craig@okanogancd.org)) no later than 5:00 PM, Friday, May 5, 2023. If you have questions about the nomination process or award please contact Craig.

## 4 – PMC Update for April 20

We are happy to report incredible sales results with nearly 1.9 million plants harvested and 1.8 million plants sold. Note that the PMC's annual Cooler Blow-out Sale is underway right now. Details can be found in the [PMC Update published today](#).

Even as we hear of these incredible results, the PMC is preparing for the next season and beyond. The PMC Update explains some of these activities.

## 5 – SCC and WACD Meetings Held

The State Conservation Commission held a special meeting on April 11 to discuss and decide on next steps in finding their next executive director. The Commission chose to seek a firm that can help them recruit for this position.

The Washington Association of Conservation Districts held a regular board meeting on April 17. Documents from that meeting are available in a [meeting folder in WACD's Box account](#).

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## Recent Posts on the Hub

- [Plant Materials Center Update April 20, 2023](#)
- [Conservation Commission tour & meeting](#)
- [Week 14 General Legislative Review](#)
- [Week 13 General Legislative Review](#)
- [Plant Materials Center Update April 6, 2023](#)
- [Watershed Restoration and Assessment Intern](#)

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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