



Washington Association of Conservation Districts

Five Things to Know for July 6, 2023

Ron Shultz, Washington State Conservation Commission

In the photo below, we see Ron Shultz in his natural environment: working with a group of people to make the conservation delivery system better in Washington State. The unexpected passing of Ron touches all of us. There are few in our community who did not know Ron. No details are available at this time regarding a memorial or remembrance of Ron. Please stay tuned to your WSCC and WACD sources for information about a memorial or remembrance of Ron, and please see the Executive Corner below for a few personal reflections about Ron.



FIVE THINGS TO KNOW

1 – Riparian Programs Update

On June 28, the State Conservation Commission sent out an [update on riparian programs](#). This update contains important information for every conservation district utilizing riparian funding from the Commission.

2 – Past Resolutions Available on the Hub

We finally tied a ribbon around a long-needed addition to the WACD Hub: a compendium of past resolutions that goes back to 2000. Find it under the WACD:Resolutions menu item at <https://hub.wadistricts.org/wacd/resolutions/>

3 – WSCC meeting on July 19-20

The Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC) invites you to participate in a conservation tour and interaction dinner held on Wednesday, July 19, 2023, hosted by Cascadia Conservation District.

On Thursday, July 20th, the WSCC will hold an in-person business meeting in Wenatchee, Washington. All members of the public are welcome.

To continue protecting the health and safety of staff, members, and guests, the WSCC will provide options to participate via online webinar and teleconference for meetings. *Guests attending the meeting virtually must pre-register*

Please click the appropriate links below to view dates, times, and locations of events. Registration links for participation can also be found below:

- [WSCC July 19-20, 2023 Public Meeting Notice](#) - dates, times, and locations of events are listed in this document.
- [Registration link for all in-person participation](#)
- [Registration link for virtual participation only](#)

Meeting Accommodations: Persons needing an accommodation to participate in WSCC public meetings should call Kaisha Walker at 360-890-1062, or call 711 relay service. All accommodation requests should be received no later than July 12, 2023, to ensure preparations and needs are appropriately met.

4 – Lewis Conservation District in the News

Recently, the Daily Chronicle highlighted the no-till drill program at the Lewis Conservation District. The article is interesting and should be of interest to many conservation districts. Find it through [our article on the Hub](#).

5 – Tom on Vacation, Contact Ryan

WACD Executive Director Tom Salzer is honoring a last wish from his mother and several requests from his wife's family by taking a long vacation, the first in several years. Starting on Monday, July 10, please contact Ryan Baye by [email](#) or by phone (360-999-0361) for assistance with WACD matters. Tom should be back in the saddle around Monday, August 7. July 14-18 he will be attending the NACD Summer Meeting in Bismarck, North Dakota.

Activities in his vacation plan include:

- Sapphire mining
- Finding the old family homestead in northeast Montana
- Visiting the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve in the Flint Hills, Kansas
- Camping in New Mexico, Utah, and Nevada

Upcoming

2023

- **July 15-19:** [NACD summer meeting](#)
- **July 19-20:** [State Conservation Commission tour and meeting — Wenatchee, WA](#)
- **August 23-25:** [NACD Pacific and Southwest Region meeting — South Lake Tahoe, CA](#)
- **September 18:** [WACD Board of Directors meeting](#) — online
- **September 20-21:** [State Conservation Commission tour and meeting — Clarkston, WA](#)
- **November 27-29:** WACD Annual Conference and Business Meeting — Wenatchee, WA
- **November 30:** [State Conservation Commission meeting — Wenatchee, WA](#)

2024

- **February 10-14:** [NACD 78th annual meeting — San Diego, California](#)

Executive Corner: Ron Shultz

From Ryan Baye

Ron's sudden departure will leave a hole in the lives of those of us lucky enough to work with him. In my six years with WACD, I can't remember a time when Ron didn't know about everything and everyone who worked on natural resources policies. He always had a story to

tell, usually at his own expense.

Ron lived and breathed conservation, he was irreplaceable. He was an institution and spent his life dedicated to making a difference. I think he succeeded, his legacy will be embedded in the Conservation Commission forever.

I will miss Ron. I will miss how our conversations could jump from politics to baseball. I will miss how he could argue with anyone about anything and then they'd go out to dinner together. I will miss his self-deprecating manner and all his jokes about lawyers. And I will miss his driving force for conservation.



From Tom Salzer

Razor clams. The moment I knew I had a connection with Ron that was more than just work was listening to him talk about going razor clamming. That was something my grandfather and my father loved to do so it connected me to Ron in a way that was deeper and more personal. No matter how challenging the situation was, we could always bring ourselves home with some talk about razor clams.

Mark Clark (Past Executive, Washington State Conservation Commission) brought Ron into our fold. If memory serves, the inestimable Stu Trefry was a strong proponent of adding Ron to the Commission team. Ron was highly regarded for his intelligence, wit, and ability to deliver results. Before him, the Commission had no explicitly named policy director. The additional, focused capacity Ron brought to the Commission benefited our entire conservation community.

I worked with Ron throughout my [13 years with the Commission](#). He demanded excellence from everyone, most of all from himself. He also brought a wry, penetrating sense of humor that was so quick — and sometimes so subtle — we wouldn't catch the joke until the next day.

During every legislative session, he was a whirlwind of action and strategy, working visibly at times and other times serving out of sight, behind the scenes. I believe that in the minds of many legislators, the first face that comes to mind when the Conservation Commission is mentioned is Ron's. He was a supreme spokesperson for our conservation community. His passing leaves a hole that seems infinitely deep, so deep that I can't imagine how anyone could fill it.

Many of you know of his history with the Audubon Society and working for then-Governor Gary Locke. Those experiences primed Ron to be a true force of nature for voluntary conservation. Irreplaceable might seem like an exaggeration, but not when I think of how far, wide, and deeply Ron's devotion has reached.

Ron was also deeply engaged with the [Pacific Education Institute](#). At the time of his passing, he was serving as President of the [PEI board](#), another way he was helping to answer the conservation needs of Washingtonians.

I've lost co-workers before. It's very hard to process. Not only is there a sense of loss, but the event brings us a brief glimpse at our own mortality. Ron will be remembered for the huge impact he made on our conservation community in Washington State. Let us honor his legacy by continuing to strive to be the best conservation delivery system in the country, serving our communities and creatures as best we can.

Sincerely,

Tom Salzer, Executive Director

Recent Posts on the Hub

- [What is South Sound GREEN?](#)
- [No-Till Drill Seeding Machines Now Available to Rent at Farm Store Thanks to Lewis County Conservation District Program - The Daily Chronicle](#)
- [Washington State Legislative & Elections Update - June 15, 2023](#)
- [Education Specialist](#)
- [NACD Announces 2023 Outreach and Technical Assistance Grant Program Request for Applications](#)
- [Plant Materials Center Update - June 8, 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.

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