

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

Washington Association of Conservation Districts

Special note

Bad actors have been at it again, this time impersonating our WACD President, Mike Mumford, with emails requesting recipients to take some particular action like emailing a strange account or asking him to purchase gift cards for WACD. Please don't be offended when we tell you that Mike is not asking you for these things. When you receive requests like this, we suggest that you look at the actual email address. In this case, the message did not come from the couple of email addresses we know Mike uses. Protect yourself by making sure the sender is who they purport to be!

Five Things to Know for September 21, 2023

1 – WFFA seeks conservation district support for carbon project

The Washington Farm Forestry Association has produced a one-pager on an Inflation Reduction Act grant proposal for which they seek conservation district support. It explains where WFFA wants to go with this IRA grant that is aimed at connecting small forest landowners to markets and resources that can help them improve their forest management, reduce the potential for carbon release, and help establish viable biochar markets in Washington state. Interested districts can directly contact the WFFA Executive Director, [Elaine Oneil](#), for more information. [See our post on the Hub for more.](#)

2 – CD elections study delayed

WACD has verified that the conservation district elections study authorized in the 2023 session by the Washington State Legislature has been delayed. The Washington State Institute for Public Policy was supposed to issue a preliminary report on December 1st of this year with a final report June 30 of 2024, but cited capacity issues when their Board of Directors pushed back the preliminary report to December of 2024 with a final report in 2025.

3 – Area Association Meetings and Resolutions

Reminder: Area Association meetings are coming up soon! Details are available on the [Hub](#):

- Wednesday, **October 4** – NW Area Association meeting hosted by the [Clallam CD](#)
- Monday, **October 16** – SW Area Association meeting hosted by the [Pacific CD](#)

- Wednesday, **October 18** – NE Area Association meeting hosted by the [Pend Oreille CD](#)
- Thursday, **October 19** – NC Area Association meeting hosted by the [Adams CD](#)
- Tuesday, **October 24** – SC Area Association meeting hosted by the [Benton CD](#)
- Thursday, **October 26** – SE Area Association meeting hosted by the [Whitman CD](#)

Resolutions are becoming available for general review on the Hub page for area association meetings under the Resolutions tab: <https://hub.wadistricts.org/annual/2023meetings/>

4 – WACD Award Nominations DUE October 27th

Each year, WACD seeks to recognize the best and brightest in our community. We are looking for nominations in eleven different categories, ranging from Associate Supervisors to local co-operators. Applications should take no more than a few minutes of your time. The [2023 nomination forms](#) are now available on the WACD Hub.

5 – Annual conference information coming soon

Please stay tuned for more information about the [WACD annual conference and business meeting](#). WACD staff expect to have more details available next week, including a draft agenda and registration information.

BONUS – NACD annual meeting registration is now open

Today, the National Association of Conservation Districts announced the opening of registration for their 2025 annual meeting to be held in San Diego, California. Learn more at <https://www.nacdnet.org/news-and-events/annual-meeting/>



Support Washington State Envirothon

at WACD's 2023 Annual Meeting Auction

November 28th, 6:00 PM-8:00 PM

All proceeds will support the WA State Envirothon team on their road to Nationals.



For more details or to make a donation please contact Chloe Steffes at chloe.steffes@kingcd.org

Upcoming Events

2023

- **October 4:** [NW Area Association meeting](#), hosted by Clallam CD
- **October 16:** [SW Area Association meeting](#), hosted by Pacific CD
- **October 16:** [WACD Board of Directors work session](#)
- **October 18:** [NE Area Association meeting](#), hosted by Pend Oreille CD
- **October 19:** [NC Area Association meeting](#), hosted by Adams CD
- **October 24:** [SC Area Association meeting](#), hosted by Benton CD
- **October 26:** [SE Area Association meeting](#), hosted by Whitman CD
- **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

Immersed in change

I'm sitting in the Washington State Conservation Commission in Clarkston meeting listening to Commissioners grapple with the immense number of change occurring in our systems and in the external conditions affecting us. I could wax poetic about how hard change is on each of us and on all of us, but you already know this because you are dealing with it, too.

I've never seen this much change hitting us in such a compressed window of time. It's hard. It's difficult. If you're struggling with it, rest assured you are not alone. We are adrift in shifting expectations and inundated with change.

To echo this theme, a few of us on the tour of Asotin County CD projects on Wednesday came up with a short slogan appropriate for T-shirts, hats, and bumper stickers: "shift happens". I think this humorous slogan may reflect how many of our community members are feeling. Shift happens.

This season of change

Right now, our community is dealing with the loss of a long-time Commission employee, the search for a new Executive Director for the Commission, Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program contracts, and many more topics.

At the same time, record levels of funding are being made available at both the state and federal levels. The magnitude of these funds present a huge conundrum for conservation districts because if they apply for and win a big grant, how do they immediately expand their

capacity to get the work done?

Funding for training and building capacity in conservation districts seems to be lagging far behind the need expressed by districts. This has quite a few district folks very stressed because, like all of us, they want to do the best job possible and they want to support their communities and improve natural resources.

Stepping back from these stressful topics, I'd like to observe that conservation district people do this work because they are driven to do it. An individual's conservation work is powered by their heart and implemented through strong minds and hands. We certainly aren't in it for the money. In transitional moments like these, I fall back on the foundations and remind myself what compelled me to conservation in the first place. That helps me find my center so I can charge once more into the breach.

And it also helps to know help is coming, WACD is happy to see that the Conservation Commission included \$10 million for Conservation Technical Assistance support in their budget package for the 2024 legislative session. Roylene Comes at Night discussed at the Asotin County CD Tour dinner how many new staff NRCS is bringing into the state. There is hope that change will continue, this time to make it just a little bit easier for conservation districts to achieve their purpose. That, in a phrase, shift happens.

Always yours for conservation,

Tom Salzer, WACD Executive Director

Recent Posts on the Hub

- [Spokane Conservation District plans year-round farmers market](#)
- [WFFA seeks conservation district support for carbon project](#)
- [Farm / Natural Resource Planner](#)
- [NACD Farm Bill Update](#)
- [Okanogan County Water Bank gearing up for initial deposits](#)
- [Three DNR Job Opportunities](#)

See the full list of Recent Posts at <https://hub.wadistricts.org/posts/>. We capture many articles of interest to segments of our community in the [WACD Reading List](#).

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>



WILBUR-ELLIS

- [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](#)
- [JTI](#)
- [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](#)