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Washington Association of Conservation Districts



Five Things to Know for September 28, 2023

1 – Farewell to Kirk and welcome to Sarah

We are thankful Kirk Robinson was willing to come out of retirement to help lead the Washington State Conservation Commission. During his brief tenure as Interim Executive Director, the Commission continued to evolve. WACD maintained a good working relationship with Kirk and appreciates his work on behalf of Washington's conservation districts.

Last week, as Kirk returned to his well-earned retirement, the Commission board appointed [Sarah Groth](#) to serve as Interim Executive Director. WACD looks forward to working with her and welcomes Sarah to her new role.

2 – Legal services from WACD's attorney are now available

The WACD Board of Directors has approved a letter of engagement designating an attorney to act as WACD's General Counsel. As part of that arrangement, WACD is providing up to one hour a year for each member conservation district in good standing* to receive free-to-them legal consultation with WACD's attorney. This arrangement is subject to funds available; for the current fiscal year, WACD has set aside \$10,000 for this service to members. Find out more at the bottom of our [Member Services page](#). **A member in good standing is a conservation district that is current on annual dues to WACD.*

3 – Secretary of State comment period

Washington State Archives is pleased to seek comments, suggestions, and feedback from conservation districts on the: [Consultation Draft - Conservation Districts Records Retention](#)

[Schedule v.2.0.](#)

Please see our Hub post at <https://hub.wadistricts.org/2023/09/washington-state-archives-seeks-comments-on-records-retention/> for more information. Please send your comments, suggestions, and feedback to recordsmanagement@sos.wa.gov by the close of business Friday, October 27, 2023.

4 – 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/>

5 – WACD Annual Conference Information

Conservation: Getting to Yes

The conference theme this year is **Conservation: Getting to Yes**. We are excited to have a panel of cooperators who will share their reasons for implementing conservation practices on their land. See the draft conference schedule:

<https://hub.wadistricts.org/annual/2023meetings/conference/#schedule>

WACD staff have been working hard this week on estimating conference costs, setting prices for registrations, securing sponsorships, and inviting speakers. You can expect us to announce registration details next week.

Awards nominations

Awards nominations are 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.

BONUS – NACD annual meeting registration is now open

Last week, 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/>

BONUS #2 – Alaska to host 2024 Pacific Region meeting

In the Pacific Region board meeting this afternoon, the Alaska representative announced they will host the 2024 Pacific Region meeting. That is exciting news. We'll share more as we hear more. Find more about the Pacific Region at: <https://www.nacdnet.org/general-resources/conservation-district-directory/pacific-region/>



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

Carry hope in your heart

It's been a hot minute since I graduated from high school. This year, I find myself on the planning committee for the 50th reunion of the Class of 1974. How did 50 years go by so quickly?

I've discovered that out of my class roster of 515 students, 52 have passed before the rest of us. Another 25 percent of the class has gone incommunicado over the past decade. A lot of change has happened as people aged from their mid-50s to their mid-60s. They retired. They moved. Some have become widowed and some have divorced and remarried. My work over the past few weeks of evenings and weekends has been full of surprises.

But one thing stands out clearly: none of us are the same people we were in high school. We have grown and changed. We got jobs, traveled, married, and raised families. My classmates have had some amazing experiences: some good, some not so good. Despite all the ups and downs, people still carry hope for the future in their hearts.

At the same time, a subset of my classmates seem focused on the past. Whatever negative experiences they had back then are acting like anchors, holding them in place, preventing them from engaging with their classmates. This is particularly difficult to see as we ramp up to a marker moment: 50 years since graduating from high school.

This is where my discoveries doing the reunion work seem to intersect with my WACD work. When our WACD members look to the future, most seem to have a lot of hope that their future will be better. However, some folks want to focus on perceived past injustices, and perhaps

they can't really hope for a better future until those injustices are addressed.

Dealing with past wrongs is reactive by definition. It takes a lot of time and energy to turn back time and rehash the events perceived as past wrongs. It takes a lot to make progress on healing those feelings. In a large meeting with limited time available, it's hard to have healing conversations. Most of the time, these conversations work better when held more privately.

I prefer to focus my time and talent on working proactively toward a better future. In the context of WACD's work with and for members, that means including and valuing all voices. That is easy to do when people agree. It is incredibly hard work when people don't agree. If you've been in a meeting where one or two people are stridently stating their disagreement, you may know what I mean.

And yet: there is great opportunity in such disagreements! People don't voice their disagreement unless they care, and things don't change if everyone always agrees. Dissent demonstrates that people care about the issue. It also proves they care about their place in the group discussing and deciding the issue. They want to belong and to be valued; if they didn't, they wouldn't be in that moment, stating their opposition. Please remember when people disagree, they are proving they care about the issue and their role in it.

The other class reunion learning I'm embracing is simply that none of us are the same people we were in the past. Somewhere along the way, each of us has changed. This realization encourages me to remember that the person I spoke with yesterday may not be quite the same person today.

As we launch into a season of area association meetings and the WACD annual conference and business meeting, I ask you to have hope for a better future. While we will undoubtedly see some differences of opinion, everyone in the room cares. By being present and participating, each person is saying they want to be part of the group and want their voice to have weight. When these moments arise, let's give them enough time and grace that they can feel valued and included. If we can just push the pause button long enough to be sure every voice that wants to be heard, is heard, we can find ways to move forward together, with hope in our hearts and agreement on our mission.

Always yours for conservation,

Tom Salzer, WACD Executive Director

Recent Posts on the Hub

- [Washington State Archives Seeks Comments on Records Retention](#)
- [Preparing for a Federal Government Shutdown](#)
- [Underwood CD announces two job openings](#)
- [Spokane Conservation District plans year-round farmers market](#)
- [WFFA seeks conservation district support for carbon project](#)

- [Farm / Natural Resource Planner](#)

See the full list of Recent Posts at <https://hub.wadistricts.org/posts/>. We capture many articles of interest to 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>



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