



Washington Association of Conservation Districts

Five Things to Know for October 5, 2023



1 – Sponsor Spotlight

Meet one of our 2023 Champion Level Annual Meeting Sponsors: **Springbrook**. Springbrook is a cloud financial platform that specializes in providing services to local government agencies and municipalities.

Over 30 years ago, Springbrook's founders recognized a need for the power of digital technology to create new efficiencies in the delivery and administration of local government services. From the first line of code ever written, Springbrook's mission has been to develop tools that help people do their jobs more efficiently and accurately, and to make government work better, for the citizens. Find out more at: <https://springbrooksoftware.com/>.

We invite you to look at the array of sponsors for the 2023 WACD Annual Conference at <https://hub.wadistricts.org/annual/2023meetings/conference/#sponsors>. More sponsors are needed! Sponsors help us provide a better conference. Please [contact WACD](#) if you have ideas for sponsors. Note: individuals can also be a sponsor at any level.

2 – WACD Annual Conference Information

Registration and Hotel Information is now available!

We are only a month and a half away from our Annual Conference! **You can register [here](#).** Reserve your lodging accommodations using one of the methods below.

The Annual Conference and Business Meeting will also have a virtual participation component so that those unable to travel to Wenatchee can still participate. **Please register for virtual participation [here](#).**

You can make hotel reservations at the Coast Wenatchee Center Hotel. Rooms are available at the government per diem rate of \$107/night - November 26 - 29, 2023). **THE CUT-OFF DATE FOR HOTEL RESERVATIONS IS NOVEMBER 8TH.**

You can reserve a room in three ways:

1. Call the hotel directly at [509-662-1234](tel:509-662-1234) and indicate you are booking with the Washington Association of Conservation Districts.
2. Call the hotel's toll-free line at [800-716-6199](tel:800-716-6199) and ask for the Washington Association of Conservation Districts conference to book the room.
3. Reserve online at [Coast Wenatchee Center Hotel](#).

We look forward to seeing you in Wenatchee!

Awards nominations reminder!

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.

3 – Area Association Meetings Are Underway!

Area Association meetings are underway, 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 being posted as we receive them. Find resolutions on the Hub at:

<https://hub.wadistricts.org/annual/2023meetings/areas/#resolutions>.

4 – NACD Breakout Session Proposals DUE October 13th

Have you ever wanted to present to the attendees at the National Association of Conservation Districts annual meeting? Or perhaps you'd like to visit San Diego next year? **NACD needs breakout session proposals!**

There is still time to submit breakout session proposals for the upcoming Annual meeting in February. These informational breakout sessions focus on the work of conservation districts and their partners across the country. Amazing work is happening across the country and this is a chance to showcase what has been accomplished. Annual Meeting details are at <https://www.nacdnet.org/news-and-events/annual-meeting/>.

Submit a presentation, sharing session, success story, etc. related to one of four themes:

1. Community Outreach;
2. Climate Resilience;
3. Conservation Capacity & Partnerships; and
4. Diverse & Nontraditional Agriculture.

Submit your proposal at https://nacd.formstack.com/forms/2024_am_breakout_session.

5 – Forestry Funding Alert

The application period is open for the USDA Forest Service Inflation Reduction Act Forest Landowner Support Grant. This grant's objectives include:

- Support the participation of underserved forest landowners in emerging private markets for climate mitigation or forest resilience.

- Support the participation of forest landowners who own less than 2,500 acres of forest land in emerging private markets for climate mitigation or forest resilience.

Proposal budgets greater than or equal to \$2 million and less than \$25 million are due by October 21, 2023, 60 days following publication. There is a "Track B" option where proposal budgets less than \$2 million will be considered for funding on a quarterly basis until August 21, 2024.

For more information and/or to review the full grant, go to:

<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=349857>.

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/>



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

The value of interacting with peers, both near and far

This afternoon, I returned from a board meeting of the [Association of Conservation Executive Directors](#) held in Franklin, Tennessee, just outside of Nashville. I sit on that board as the Pacific Region Representative.

While I wish I could say I enjoyed the unique sights and sounds of Nashville, the truth is we were so busy that I never made it downtown. We spent a day in a conference room without windows and spent the next day touring various operations deemed important by our great host, the [Tennessee Association of Conservation Districts](#).

Since I brought my camera, I also served as the unofficial photographer for the two days together. You can see selected photos at <https://photos.app.goo.gl/7kXYhxCp6MmfSqKc7>.

Trips like these always feel expensive. That begs the question: what value do we get from meetings like this?

Speaking of this meeting in particular, I came away with several ideas and observations, like:

- How lucky we are to have 45 effective conservation districts!
- Appreciation for the level of engagement our conservation district board supervisors and managers have in the affairs of their statewide association of conservation districts.
- Ideas for better area meetings, including holding more than one meeting a year.
- Ideas for better WACD annual meetings!
- Conservation district fundraising ideas from the elevator speeches each of us gave.
- I also learned that NACD really does need more breakout session proposals (see item 2 above). This is a great opportunity to showcase something special about your district.

Mostly, though, my sense of gratitude for our conservation district community was renewed. As I listened to the challenges many other state associations are experiencing, I felt very lucky to be associated with our tremendously strong conservation delivery system and the people who make it work so well.

There were other realizations, too, that might feel more troublesome. The conservation district members of many state associations are struggling with how quickly diversity, equity, and inclusion have surfaced in their grants and communities. Just like many of us, they don't feel well-prepared for those conversations. Fortunately, in Washington State, we are working on this with those districts that want this kind of learning. There's a great example of DEI work in Oklahoma that is worth taking a look at. Their program is called [CARE: Conservation & Agriculture Reach Everyone](#).

Some state associations have trouble getting their association board to engage and attend meetings. We haven't had too much trouble with this. The highlight for one state association board seems to be going to the NACD Annual Meeting. That association sends all of its board members to NACD every year.

We had conversations about association dues. I learned that state association dues are all over the place. Some states use a formula like we used to have. I was surprised to discover that the majority of states represented at the board meeting have gone to a system like ours, where the dues are the same for every member district. And I was pleased to learn that our dues are not

the highest in the nation; another state association levies dues of more than \$5,000 per district!

Most of the state representatives at the meeting were very interested in the WACD Plant Material Center. Some representatives even suggested that Washington should host an ACED board meeting at the PMC.

What am I getting at in this Executive Corner piece? Interacting with your peers helps put what you are doing into perspective. Whether it is district managers/executives interacting, board supervisors getting together, the WACD Annual Conference, the NACD Pacific Region Meeting, or the NACD Annual Meeting, sharing your issues and ideas with peers generates new ways of thinking about old problems and provides context for the issues you face in your home district. What is the value of gaining more appreciation for the great things you do and discovering new ideas to bring home? I don't think we can measure this in dollars.

That's deep enough. I got up at 1:00 am Pacific Time to catch my first flight of the day and it's now 4:00 pm. It's been a long, tiring day, too long to keep harping on the many things I learned on this trip. I hope you enjoy the photo stack and gain some appreciation for your own great work in your home district, and the good work that your own state association is doing for and with you.

Always yours for conservation,

Tom Salzer, WACD Executive Director

Recent Posts on the Hub

- [Millions of dollars for 'tree equity' head to Snohomish County | HeraldNet.com](#)
- ['Beaver dam analogs' recreate wild waterways in NCW streams](#)
- [Funding environment brightens for Palouse conservation group](#)
- [Washington State Archives Seeks Comments on Records Retention](#)
- [Preparing for a Federal Government Shutdown](#)
- [Underwood CD announces two job openings](#)

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>



- [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](#)
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1219 11th Ave SE, Olympia, WA 98501
(360) 999-5151

[MailPoet](#)