



Washington Association of Conservation Districts

Five Things to Know for November 2, 2023

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1 – Sponsor Spotlight

Meet one of our 2023 Leader Level Annual Meeting Sponsors: **Country Financial**.

Country Financial has a long history of protecting people. And we work together to help you and your family achieve financial freedom. We're more than an insurance company - COUNTRY Financial clients not only trust us with insuring their homes, cars, farms, businesses, and lives, but also to help them plan for the future with investing, retirement and financial planning. Scott Williamsen is your local Insurance agent in Burlington, WA and will be exhibiting at the conference. Stop by his booth and say hi!

Learn more at <https://www.countryfinancial.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

HOTEL CUT-OFF DATE IS ONLY 6 DAYS AWAY!

We are only 3-1/2 weeks 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!

Conference Speakers

We are happy to have finalized the details for several speakers this week and announce the following additions to our conference programming:

- **Rep. Mike Chapman** – Chair of the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee
- **Karen Janowitz** – Project Lead for WSU's [Least Conflict Solar Siting Study](#) on Ag Land that was written this summer.
- **Laura Meyer** – Former SCC Communications Director and now VP of Creative Strategy for KR Creative Strategies.

You can view our entire conference schedule on the WACD Hub [Annual Conference page](#).

Send us your project videos

Seeing the many successful conservation district projects at the area meetings gave us inspiration. We would love to share with the membership at the WACD annual conference any project videos districts have either developed on their own or in partnership with another entity. If you have a video from the last couple of years you're proud of, please send it to rbye@wadistricts.org.

3 – Five RCPP Grants Awarded in Washington!

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service has announced [Regional Conservation Partnership Program grant awards](#). Five awards totaling \$73 million are for projects in Washington State:

- **Odessa Groundwater Replacement Program EL 84.7 Landowner Extension Mainline Grant County Conservation District (now the [Columbia Basin Conservation District](#))**
- **Odessa Groundwater Replacement Program EL 80.6 Landowner Extension Mainline Grant County Conservation District (now the [Columbia Basin Conservation District](#))**
- **Odessa Groundwater Replacement Program EL 86.4 On-Farm Project Grant County Conservation District (now the [Columbia Basin Conservation District](#))**

- **Upper Yakima River Water Supply and Fish Habitat Improvements**
[Kittitas County Conservation District](#)
- **Absolute Enteric Methane Reductions in Washington State Dairies: A New Frontier on the Journey to Net Zero**
[AGSPIRE INC.](#)

4 – SCC Commissioner for Central Area

This year, the position being elected at the WACD annual conference to the Conservation Commission is the Central Area Representative. Incumbent Harold Crouse has shared with WACD and WSCC that he will not seek another term so this will be an open election.

If you live in the North Central Area or South Central Area and are interested in serving as a Commissioner, please express that interest using the Candidate Interest Form found at <https://www.formstack.com/forms/?2135162-0xZB7kTiMe>. Submissions are due Friday, November 17, 2023.

5 – Jobs

Job announcements are always popular on the WACD Hub. Find them at <https://hub.wadistricts.org/topics/jobs/>. While conservation district staff often find these announcements of interest, the job descriptions and published wage ranges are also helpful to conservation district board members.

This week, there is a new job listed with the National Association of Conservation Districts for the **Northeast Region Representative position**. This role is responsible for providing assistance to NACD member conservation districts and NACD's Board to advance conservation and resource development, assist in the implementation of the association's policies related to the region, and provide broad support to the NACD Communications Team. This is a service-oriented position focused on creating and maintaining relationships and increasing the effectiveness of NACD's support of conservation districts and their state associations.

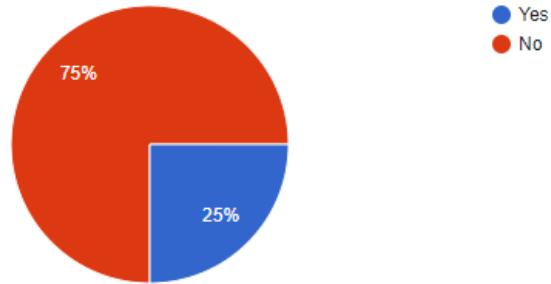
This is a full-time remote position based in the Northeast Region - CT, DC, DE, MA, MD, ME, NJ, NH, NY, PA, RI, VT, and WV. Interested candidates should apply by Friday, November 10 for priority consideration. [Learn more on NACD's website](#).

Responses re: Changing Annual Conference Days/Dates

Thank you to those who took the time to respond to our survey. Twenty responses were received over the past two weeks, giving an indication of how WACD's members may feel about changes to WACD's annual conference days and dates. In addition, eight respondents offered additional written comments. This information will be passed along to the WACD Board of Directors for discussion at their next regular meeting.

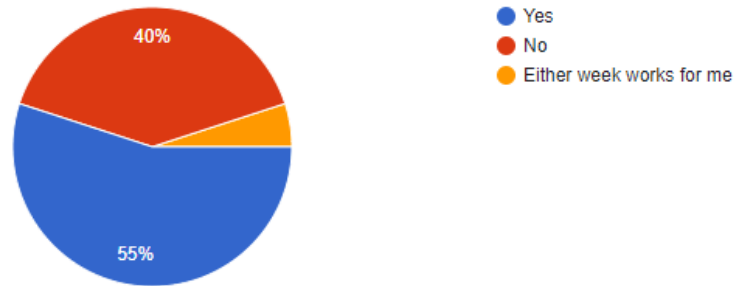
[1] For the 2024 and 2025 WACD annual conference and business meeting, would you prefer a revised schedule with the conference on Thursday and Friday and the business meeting on Saturday?

20 responses



[2] For the 2024 and 2025 WACD annual conference and business meeting, do you support changing the WACD annual conference to the week before Thanksgiving week?

20 responses



Support Washington State Envirothon



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

- **November 20:** [WACD Regular Board Meeting](#)
- **November 27-29:** [WACD Annual Conference and Business Meeting](#) — Wenatchee, WA
- **November 30:** [State Conservation Commission meeting – Wenatchee, WA](#)

2024

- **January 8:** [Washington State Legislature short session begins](#)
- **January 15:** [WACD Regular Board Meeting](#)

- **January 18:** [State Conservation Commission meeting – Lacey, WA](#)
 - **February 10-14:** [NACD 78th annual meeting – San Diego, California](#)
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Executive Corner

November is Native American Heritage Month

Rich resources at <https://www.nativeamericanheritagemonth.gov/> will help you celebrate Native American Heritage Month. For a more structured way to celebrate and learn, check out [30 ways you can celebrate](#).

Another fundraising newsletter published

A new fundraising newsletter was sent to those subscribers yesterday. You can find it near the top of the newsletter archive at <https://hub.wadistricts.org/resources/newsletters/newsletters-2023/>. [Click here](#) to subscribe to this newsletter.

Less than four weeks to the WACD annual conference

It's been a rapid-fire year for our entire community. Never have I seen as much activity in Washington State conservation districts as I am seeing in calendar year 2023. As we heard conservation district presentations at area association meetings, I was dumbfounded by the breadth and depth of district projects.

This was brought home to me poignantly as I reflected on my own humble beginning in this community. I had a handful of grants to work on. My very small district (small measured in number of staff, not land area to cover) had one full-time employee and one part-time employee. I "managed" the district which really meant I did the field work along with dealing with whatever needed doing. It was a struggle to keep rolling the ball forward while simultaneously learning what I needed to know to make the minimum number of mistakes.

In contrast, today I see conservation districts managing dozens of grants, employing numerous generalists and specialists, investing significant time and energy reaching out to their constituents, and demonstrating their effectiveness in the sheer number of actions being carried out on the land. It is breathtaking. I am astounded at the capacity shown by Washington State conservation districts and partners.

I know it's not easy. Some things are moving targets, and it can be hard to maintain progress and remain updated at the same time. This is one reason the WACD annual conference is such an important tool for conservation district supervisors and staff. Each year, our community gathers to enjoy the camaraderie engendered by shared challenges, celebrate successes, and

learn from each other and from invited speakers. I've been going to these annual meetings for three decades, and for a while, I was attending annual meetings in both Washington and Oregon. I cannot overstate how beneficial it is for you, and your peers, to participate in the annual conference and business meeting. We are bringing you a great conference this year.

Here are three quotations to close out our newsletter this week...

Do whatever you have to do. People always want to tell you how to do it. No, do it your own way. And don't ask for like, "Oh, how can you do it?" Do it. Figure it out. - Cardi B

Remember that great expectations create great capabilities. If you limit your goals to what you know you can achieve, you are setting the bar way too low. - Ray Dalio

Be strong, be fearless, be beautiful. And believe that anything is possible when you have the right people there to support you. - Misty Copeland

Always yours for conservation,

Tom Salzer, WACD Executive Director

Latest Posts on the Hub

- [Five RCPP Projects Funded in Washington State](#)
- [NACD Northeast Region Representative](#)
- [Plant Materials Center Update – October 26, 2023](#)
- [WeedWise Specialist and CWMA Coordinator Position Announcement](#)
- [SCC Regular Meeting](#)
- [WACD Regular Business Meeting](#)

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

Our generous sponsors for 2022-2023 have helped carry us forward to the 2023 annual conference, and we thank them very their wonderful support.

Welcome to our 2023-2024 sponsors!

Today, we bring forward our growing list of 2023-2024 sponsors. You will recognize some of these entities as long-time supporters of conservation but many are new. Their support helps WACD provide the annual conference and business meeting at a reasonable cost for our members.

WACD encourages you to consider patronizing sponsors in appreciation of their important support: <https://hub.wadistricts.org/annual/2022meetings/conference/#sponsors>

- [Aspect Consulting](#)
- [Banner Bank](#)
- [Country Financial](#)
- [BFI Native Seeds](#)
- Larry Davis (individual sponsor)
- [Enduris](#)
- [envu](#)
- [KR Creative Strategies](#)
- [Monaghan Consulting](#)
- [Odessa Trading Co.](#)
- [Plants of the Wild](#)
- [Rainier Seeds](#)
- [RDO Equipment Co.](#)
- Tom Salzer (individual sponsor)
- [Springbrook Express](#)
- [Tapteal Native Plants](#)
- [USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service](#)
- [Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife](#)
- [Washington State Conservation Commission](#)
- [Weyerhaeuser](#)
- [Wilbur-Ellis](#)

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!

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<https://hub.wadistricts.org>

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