



Washington Association of Conservation Districts

Five Things to Know for November 16, 2023

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Washington State Conservation Commission

1 – Sponsor Spotlight

Meet one of our 2023 **Champion Level** Annual Meeting Sponsors: **SCC**.

The Washington State Conservation Commission (SCC) works to conserve natural resources on all lands in Washington state, through voluntary and incentive-based programs, in collaboration with conservation districts and other partners. SCC is the coordinating state agency for all 45 conservation districts (CDs) in Washington State. Together, the SCC and CDs provide voluntary, incentive-based programs that empower people to practice conservation and ensure healthy natural resources and agriculture for all. Find out more at <https://www.scc.wa.gov/>.

We invite you to look at the growing array of sponsors for the 2023 WACD Annual Conference at <https://hub.wadistricts.org/annual/2023meetings/conference/#sponsors>.

2 – WACD Annual Conference Information

Regular Registration Ends Tomorrow!

We are only one-and-a-half weeks from our Annual Conference! **Regular Registration ends tomorrow.** [Register here.](#) Reserve your lodging accommodations using one of the methods shown below.

Not Attending in Wenatchee? Participate Virtually

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

Hotel Accommodations

There are three ways to make hotel reservations at the Coast Wenatchee Center Hotel:

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

The details for our speakers have been finalized, we are thrilled to highlight a few more of them below:

- **Jordan Ryckman** – Conservation Coordinator, Conservation Northwest
- **Csenka Favorini-Csorba** – Policy Director, DNR
- **Cynthia Wilkerson** – Lands Division Manager, Wildlife Division, WDFW

You can view our entire conference schedule and speaker bios 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 – WACD Policy Committee Recommendations

On Monday and Tuesday evenings, WACD's Natural Resources Policy Committee and Legislative, Bylaws, and District Policies Committee met to review the resolutions from the area meetings and vote on their respective committee recommendations. These recommendations are non-binding and serve solely as advisory opinions from some respected members of our community for consideration by voters at the Annual Business meeting. You can find those recommendations at <https://hub.wadistricts.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/2023-WACD-Annual-Meeting-Resolutions-Table.docx> and also on the WACD Annual Conference Hub.

4 – WA Climate Resilience Strategy Listening Sessions

As part of its work to update **Washington's Climate Resilience Strategy**, the Washington Department of Ecology is hosting three listening sessions to hear input from individuals, communities, and organizations across the state. These listening sessions will be held virtually.

Listening Sessions: Register Below:

- Dec. 5 at 12:30 p.m. [Register Here!](#)
- Dec. 6 at 6 p.m. [Register Here!](#)
- Dec. 7 at 10 a.m. [Register Here!](#)

A **survey** is also now open to collect public input. Please [click here](#) to complete our survey. The survey closes on **January 12, 2024**.

Both the listening sessions and survey aim to provide opportunities for Ecology staff to listen and learn from individuals and communities about the most pressing climate risks they face; challenges and opportunities in responding to and preparing for these risks; and their vision for a more climate-resilient Washington.

Sign up for the email list

Moving forward, information about the Climate Resilience Strategy will be distributed via our email list. Please sign up using the link on our website: ecology.wa.gov/climate-strategy.

Visit the Ecology website to learn more

Visit <https://ecology.wa.gov/air-climate/responding-to-climate-change/washingtons-climate-strategy> to learn more about the strategy update process, review our draft engagement plan, sign up for our email list, and get involved.

For questions or to discuss the Climate Resilience Strategy further, contact Climate Resilience Strategy Planner, Jimmy Kralj at 564-223-1961 or Jimmy.Kralj@ecy.wa.gov.

5 – Sustainable Funding Committee Survey

The Sustainable Funding Committee is a WACD standing committee whose charge is to review existing and develop new opportunities for consistent and stable funding for CDs statewide. **District Managers and Executive Directors** are asked to complete this brief survey if you have not done so already: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/D5FJ3V5>. The survey **due date** has been extended to the **end of the month**.

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](#)

Executive Corner

Rocketing toward the annual conference

After many months of preparation, we suddenly find ourselves with just a week-and-a-half to go before we are in Wenatchee. While the conference hasn't snuck up on us, we are nevertheless scrambling to make sure we've tied a ribbon around the entire conference package for those who join us in Wenatchee. Some of us might be experiencing a little bit of sleep deprivation but I'm sure we'll be recovered by Monday, November 27!

81 years

This will be WACD's 81st year of service and representation, an amazing accomplishment. Over the eight decades your Association has existed, many things have changed. The capacity of conservation districts to help put conservation on the land began to change dramatically after the Clean Water Act was passed in 1974. The clean water funding that came along after that flowed to states and some made it to conservation districts. Staffing at conservation districts changed, with many growing from employing a part-time secretary to having a full-time technician or manager on staff.

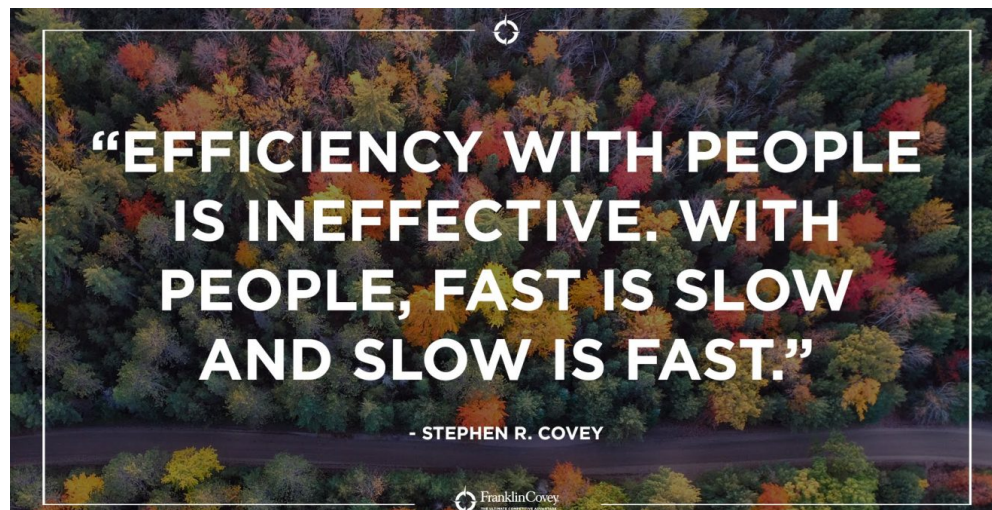
Before 1974, much of the work was done by conservation district board members. With growth after the Clean Water Act, work shifted over many years from board members to district staff. The job of being a board member became more difficult as capacity and complexity increased, resulting in increased reliance on professional, skilled employees.

Today, people in conservation districts find themselves pushed and pulled in many directions at once. Conservation district capacity is at an all-time high. With the funding levels we are seeing from the state and other sources, it is clear that our capacity is going to make another evolutionary jump.

Can districts rise to this challenge? They always have, and I believe they always will because our people are driven by strong belief and passion. Serving on a board or serving as a district professional both reflect who these folks are and the conditions they want to have in their communities. Conservation districts continue to support local needs and continue to get important conservation on the ground. Can they rise? Yes!

Always yours for conservation,

Tom Salzer, WACD Executive Director



Latest Posts on the Hub

- [Clark Conservation District annual native plant sale coming soon - The Reflector](#)
- [Skagit Conservation District receives grant for Colony Creek](#)
- [Clackamas SWCD WeedWise Specialist - Mt. Hood](#)
- [Palouse CD: Education & Outreach Manager](#)
- [Next three Odessa irrigation systems fully funded](#)
- [Salmon Reintroduction Grant and Project Manager for UCUT](#)

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](#).

Latest on the [Reading List](#)

- [Coordinator's Corner – Urban and community Forestry in Washington State](#)
 - [Washington's climate woes: First wildfires, then debris flow | Crosscut](#)
 - [Study: Drought, wildfires cause \\$11.2B in lost timber value | Timber | capitalpress.com](#)
 - [National Climate Assessment: 5 takeaways on the US climate report | CNN](#)
 - [Learn How Keeping the Stubble Can Help Your Farm Throughout No-Till November 2023 | Farmers.gov](#)
 - [Federal money will support Native American burn practices in Oregon's oak habitats - OPB](#)
 - [Biden-Harris Administration Agencies Sign Interagency Agreement to Address Wildfire Risk and Protect Communities from Smoke | USDA](#)
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Thank you to 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 2023-2024 sponsors!

We have a great list of sponsors for WACD's 2023 Annual Conference. While you will recognize some of these entities as long-time supporters of conservation, 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>

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- [USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service](#)
- [Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife](#)
- [Washington State Conservation Commission](#)
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- [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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