



Washington Association of Conservation Districts

Five Things to Know for May 2, 2024

<https://wadistricts.org> ☼ <https://wadistricts.us> ☼ <https://wacdpmc.org>



This year marks the 75th Anniversary of Aldo Leopold's "A Sand County Almanac." To commemorate the occasion the [Aldo Leopold Foundation](#) is releasing a paperback 75th Anniversary Edition at over 50% off the cover price.

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Five Things to Know

1 – CD Waitlist Survey

Thank you to the twenty-one districts who completed our impromptu wait list survey this spring. For those who are interested in the results, here are the totals of those who are waiting for district services without knowing when funding might be available.

- Farm/Forest Planning – 520
 - Livestock Nutrient Management Plans – 82
 - Stream/shoreline restoration – 358
 - Education Programs – 1100
 - Irrigation Efficiencies – 167
 - Cost Share – 489
 - Technical Assistance/Project Design – 387
 - Other – 97
-

2 – Spring Legislative Workshop Registration Deadline - May 10th

Note the new hotel reservation requirement dates at the bottom of the page!

WACD's Spring Legislative Workshop for Conservation District Supervisors, Managers and Partners will take place May 29th and May 30th at the Hal Homes Community Center - [209 N. Ruby St., Ellensburg, WA 98926](#).

Agenda:

May 29th

10:00 am - 10:30 am - Registration & Social

10:30 am - 10:45 am - Greetings & Introductions

10:45 am - 11:45 pm - Status of Resolutions, Updates & Priorities

12:00 pm - 12:30 pm - Lunch (Provided)
12:30 pm - 1:30 pm - WACD Committee Updates
1:30 pm - 3:30 pm - Sustainable Funding Committee Work Session
3:30 pm - 4:00 pm - Wrap-up & Homework
5:00 pm - Optional No-Host Evening Social

May 30th

8:00 am - 8:30 am - Light Breakfast and Social
8:30 am - 9:30 am - Partnership Roundtable
9:30 am - 10:00 am - Rates and Charges Discussion and Next Steps
10:00 am - 10:30 am - Elections Discussion
10:30 am - 10:45 am - Break
10:45 am - 11:45 am - Strategic Visioning Session
11:45 am - 12:00 pm - Wrap-up

The meeting will be offered in person and remotely via Zoom.

If you plan on attending either in person or remotely please [REGISTER HERE](#) by **May 10th**.

Hotel Information: A block of rooms at the government rate have been reserved at the following hotels under the **Group Name: WACD**:

- [Best Western Plus](#), 211 Umptanum Rd, Ellensburg, WA 98926 - (509) 925-4244
 - **Room Reservations must be made by: 4/29/2024**
- [Hampton Inn](#), 2705 Triple L Loop, Ellensburg, WA 98926 - (509) 933-1600
 - **Room Reservations must be made by: 5/19/2024**

Questions? Contact: Heather Wendt, 509-873-2669, hwendt@wadistricts.org

3 – Marine Resource Annual Science Conference

The Pacific County Marine Resource Committee is hosting their annual Science Conference at the Cranberry Museum in Long Beach on **May 18th** from **9 am - 4 pm** with a free seafood dinner at the end.

The event will feature a range of speakers from coastal bird populations, USGS Bird Studies, an update from the Big Fish Lab, to soil plot testing, earthquake and tsunami research and integrated pest management.

RSVP for the event here: <https://forms.gle/ciuwqFPex5Lv1Duq5>

2024

PACIFIC COUNTY MARINE RESOURCE COMMITTEE ANNUAL SCIENCE CONFERENCE

FEATURED TALKS INCLUDE

Join us for a day of local science & networking opportunities capped off with a dinner with locally-sourced, donated seafood!



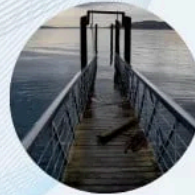
EUROPEAN GREEN CRAB

Presented by Josh Bush & Brian Turner



WASHINGTON SEA GRANT SOIL PLOT TESTS, EARTHQUAKES, & TSUNAMIS

Presented by Carrie Garrison-Laney



PACIFIC COUNTY SEA LEVEL RISE PLANNING

Presented by Dawn Spilsbury Pucci



INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT

Presented by David Beugli & Laura Butler

THE DETAILS



SATURDAY MAY 18TH



09.00 AM - 4.00 PM

PRESENTED BY



PACIFIC
COUNTY
MRC



PACIFIC
CONSERVATION
DISTRICT

RSVP ENCOURAGED

RSVP AT
MRC.PACIFICCD.ORG

FOR MORE INFO EMAIL ALEXANDER:
ABIRK@PACIFICCD.ORG

4 – Webinar on Using Wetlands for Nutrient Reduction

EPA's Office of Research and Development, Office of Water, and Regional Offices invite you to attend a free webinar: ***Using Wetlands to Reduce Nutrient Loadings to Rivers and the Coast*** on Wednesday May 22nd from 2 pm - 3 pm ET (11:00 am - Noon PT).

The webinar will cover (1) Scaling wetland-mediated nutrient reductions to large watersheds and river basins (2) Constructed wetlands for nutrient reduction at the watershed scale: linking models, design, and real-world execution.

You can register for this free webinar [here](#).

5 – CSP 101 Training Opportunity

NRCS-WA will be hosting a webinar for partners to provide an introduction to the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), **June 5, 2024** from **9 to 11 a.m.**

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) helps producers build on their existing conservation efforts while strengthening their operations. The program can help producers schedule timely planting of cover crops, develop grazing plans to improve forage, implement no-till to reduce erosion or manage forested areas in a way that benefits wildlife habitat. This program helps producers who are already taking steps to improve the condition of the land find new ways to meet their goals.

Click here for more information: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/events/nrcs-wa-to-host-csp-introductory-training>

Upcoming Events

2024

- **May 14-16:** [WSCC Planning and Regular meeting](#)
 - **May 20:** [WACD Board of Directors meeting](#)
 - **May 29-30:** [WACD's Legislative Workshop \(Ellensburg\)](#)
 - **June 17:** [WACD Board of Directors meeting](#)
-

Spring Legislative Workshop: Assessing Inner Conditions

Identifying external forces

We've introduced the concept of STEEP analysis as a way to identify external forces affecting your organization, where the letters in STEEP stand for:

- Social
- Technology
- Economic
- Environmental
- Political

Some entities add Legal and Ethical to the list so that STEEP becomes STEEPLE. I don't think we have time to dive into those additional external forces but they are important to keep in mind.

Assessing inner forces

How do you assess the inner forces that affect your organization? While you generally don't have control over most exterior forces, you often do have influence or control on inner forces.

As you might imagine, there is a plethora of information available on how to look at the inner forces at work in your organization. ([Hit this Google search](#) to see what we mean.) These range

from employing a SWOT process where you look at strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats, to breaking your organization into component parts like:

- Mission
- Leadership
- Communication
- Organizational structure
- Learning

Some people include humans and the capabilities they bring to this list. Some include diversity as a stepping stone to bringing in more information that can generate better decisions. Decision making processes might also be a consideration.

Here are some links if you wish to dive a little deeper into looking at inner forces:

- <https://medium.com/@bdmccartney/top-11-factors-internal-affecting-organisational-performance-e51347bb396a>
- <https://pestleanalysis.com/internal-factors-affect-business-organization/>
- <https://smallbusiness.chron.com/centerpiece-marketing-environment-analysis-framework-20223.html>
- <https://onstrategyhq.com/resources/internal-and-external-analysis/>

It's important that you know what your organization is (mission), what it can do (capacity), and what it will do (leadership, structure, governance, and more). Being clearer about these things will help you and your organization not only survive but thrive.

When it comes to determining a legislative strategy, some of those inner factors often become asks for WACD to carry forward, such as: funding and training to enhance staff capacity; programmatic support through people and funds; clearer authority given to the Conservation Commission; and more. These are "evergreen" topics that come up almost every year.

Just as often, we see external factors become the topics of district-created resolutions, such as: support for certain technologies; clarifying roles and responsibilities of other entities; seeking to be included in decision making on certain topics; and more.

Executive Corner

Reminder: The views expressed in the Executive Corner may not reflect the adopted views or positions of the Washington Association of Conservation Districts.

Examining the Role of EFSEC

[Resolution 2023-09](#) **Solar and Wind Project Coordination with Local Authorities** reads:

Work with partners to encourage EFSEC not to bypass local authority when siting new solar and wind installations and ensure sufficient environmental and habitat studies can be done on the

| *impact to shrub-steppe habitat.*

As I continue to learn about the role and actions of the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council — aka EFSEC — I recognize a limitation in R 2023-09. The resolution is limited to installations in shrub-steppe habitats. While this is certainly a valid concern, it seems too limiting. I think the more fundamental issue is how EFSEC considers local concerns when evaluating the siting of proposed energy facilities.

R 2023-09 rightly focuses on habitat issues. However, a long-standing belief in our community is that local input into significant decisions is important. Despite multiple instances of the word "local" in EFSEC's authorizing legislation — [RCW 80.50](#) — local concerns don't seem to be given much weight.

I'm not arguing for or against solar and wind projects. Clearly, we will see them continue to be developed on the landscape. What I'm concerned about is the power to essentially ignore the wishes of local communities. When their issues are not included in decision making, communities may end up living with the unwanted impacts of large-scale energy projects constructed nearby.

Preparing for the Ag & Water Quality Committee meeting

As I prepare for a meeting of Ecology's Ag & Water Quality Committee on which WACD sits, I am reminded of a few things.

One is transparency. A rule of thumb is that secretive approaches to solving a particular problem rarely result in widely supported, long-lasting solutions. As we know in our conservation community, open collaboration and trust are key to creating lasting solutions that work. You can't create trust without being transparent.

The other is that as individuals, we rarely have the whole story about a situation. Collectively, we can probably assemble a fairly complete picture of that situation. It is human nature that each of us hears what we want to hear, filtered through our own biases and experiences. That means what we perceive to be true may not represent an entire, truthful picture.

Transparency was an issue when I joined WACD nearly four-and-a-half years ago. Today, we are doing much better. We have the Hub website that houses a lot of information, made ready for you when you need it. We have a regular newsletter to help keep you informed of WACD's plans, priorities, and actions. This year, we'll have more meetings with individual conservation districts, and with groups of districts, than ever before. We continue to work with you and for you.

Every organization is represented by one or more individuals. That moment when you, as a person representing an entity, realize that you need to listen to other points of view is a humbling moment. That is the turning point when you recognize that you don't hold an entire tapestry of information in your hands...that you don't actually have a grasp on the entire truth of a situation. To reveal that tapestry, you have to not just give time for others to share their perspectives, but to actually pause your own inner dialogue and absorb what others are saying.

One of my goals in attending the Ag & Water Quality Committee meeting is to strengthen my relationship with some key individuals. This will help us have productive conversations with Ecology staff about a few important resolutions in WACD's five-year resolution portfolio.

This is the mindset I'm taking with me to the Ag & Water Quality Committee meeting: seek and support transparency, listen hard, and strengthen relationships.

Remembering a Board Member

As I finish preparing my comments for this issue of the Five Things newsletter, I am also dwelling on the loss of the chair from my previous district, the Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District. Jeff passed last night from stage 4 cancer. I took a long walk today to quietly remember him and to think about the thoughtful, visionary leadership he provided to the Clackamas SWCD, and about how much the district will miss him.

I'm reminded that we often take the people around us for granted. Please take this opportunity to look at the people you work with and pause to recognize the great qualities they bring to your organization and to our community. It's never too late to let someone know you appreciate them!

We'd like to hear from you

As always, we look forward to your ideas and questions. Please reach out to us at oly@wacd.org. Emails sent to that address reach the entire Executive Office team!

Always yours for conservation,



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Latest Posts on the Hub

- [DNR Conservation Easement Forester Position](#)
- [Clallam Conservation District to host horse, livestock workshops](#)
- [Palouse Conservation District And The City Of Moscow Present The City Nature Challenge](#)
- [Two local Conservation Districts getting funding for water quality.](#)
- [Ecology grants to fund seven Eastern Washington water quality improvement projects](#)
- [April 2024 Election Update](#)

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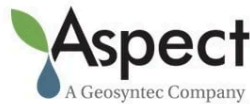
Jobs

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