



Washington Association of Conservation Districts

Five Things to Know for September 5, 2024

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Five Things to Know

1. Upcoming Area Meetings - Save the Date

Area Meetings are right around the corner; please save the dates below.

- **October 10, 2024:** SW Area Association meeting hosted by Thurston CD.
- **October 15, 2024:** NE Area Association hosted by Spokane CD.
- **October 16, 2024:** NC Area Association meeting hosted by Cascadia CD
- **October 17, 2024:** SE Area Association meeting hosted by Palouse CD.
- **October 24, 2024:** NW Area Meeting hosted by Jefferson County CD.

- **October 30, 2024:** SC Area Meeting hosted by Eastern Klickitat CD.

As more details become available you will be able to find them on the HUB [here](#).

2. Resolutions Old and New

The resolution process is how Washington's conservation districts collectively work to effect change in laws, rules, policies, and programs at the regional, state, and national level. Both WACD and NACD use resolutions to shape priorities and define the objectives that become association policy. Currently WACD has 81 Resolutions on the books. You can see the status of current resolution on the WACD Glide App [here](#).

WACD has updated its resolution template for conservation districts. With September being the month where many districts vote at their local meeting, WACD wanted to ensure our membership had access to the new template. The new template contains clarifying language but otherwise there are no substantial changes. It can be found at the bottom of the [Resolutions Page](#) on the HUB under **Resources**.

3. WACD Award Nominations and Past Recipients

We have created a [new page and table](#) on the HUB where you can peruse the different types of awards WACD and our partners present at the WACD Annual Meeting along with past award recipients.

This year's nomination packet can be found [here](#).

Nominate someone deserving today! Nominations are due **November 1st**.

4. Priorities, Challenges, and Opportunities for Climate-Smart Agriculture in Washington Webinar

On **October 24th at 9 am** the Washington State Conservation Commission, Washington State University, and KR Creative Strategies will host a webinar on ***Priorities, Challenges, and Opportunities for Climate-Smart Agriculture in Washington***.

The webinar will provide information on the contribution that organic and climate smart agriculture makes toward Washington's climate response goals. They will share project results to date, and work in development on the themes of current priorities, challenges, available resources, and suggestions on future resources to help support climate-smart agriculture in Washington. You can register for this webinar [here](#).

5. EQIP Customer Survey

Have you participated in **NRCS's Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)** in the last three years? If so, NRCS wants to hear from you!

EQIP is NRCS' flagship conservation program that helps farmers, ranchers, and private forest landowners integrate conservation into working lands. To continually improve this program, NRCS has launched a survey seeking feedback from customers who have applied for EQIP assistance in the last three years. If you received this survey via email, please only complete it once.

The survey will remain open through **September 10, 2024**.

Please take a few minutes to complete the [survey](#) and let us know how we can better support you!

Thank you for your valuable input!

6. Bonus Item: Virtual Office Hours

Starting this month WACD Executive Staff will be hosting virtual office hours on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month (unless otherwise noted) from **noon until 1 pm**. Feel free to drop in and have a chat, no appointment necessary.

- **Wednesday, September 11th**
- **Wednesday, September 25th**

Connection information is below:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81129991422?pwd=duwNs4V5L3TFQa39SUQQUHMSnwVMHT.1>

Meeting ID: 811 2999 1422

Passcode: 549537

Phone Number: +1-253-205-0468

Upcoming Events

2024

- **September 16:** [WACD Board of Directors meeting](#)
- **September 18 - 19:** [SCC Meeting & Tour](#)
- **October 10:** [SW Area Association meeting hosted by Thurston CD.](#)
- **October 15:** [NE Area Association hosted by Spokane CD.](#)
- **October 16:** [NC Area Association meeting hosted by Cascadia CD.](#)
- **October 17:** [SE Area Association meeting hosted by Palouse CD.](#)

- **October 21:** [WACD Board of Directors meeting](#)
 - **October 24:** [NW Area Meeting hosted by Jefferson County CD.](#)
 - **October 30:** [SC Area Meeting hosted by Eastern Klickitat CD.](#)
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Executive Corner

Newsletter frequency

Over the past 12 months, WACD Executive Office staff has put renewed emphasis on service delivery to members. For example, most conservation districts have seen WACD staff this year at a meeting or event. We added legal services for districts. We added IT help desk support. We continue to work on an HR help desk solution.

When we hired Heather Wendt, we expected to have more time with districts and that has certainly happened. An unexpected result is this change generated more opportunities for service to members than we anticipated. Even though this means our workload has increased, being able to provide more and better service to members is a very, very good thing.

With the additional pull on our available time, I am considering reducing the frequency of the Five Things newsletter to twice a month (the first and third Thursday). I think we can provide ample transparency and information for members with this less frequent publishing schedule.

Another reason I am considering scaling back on the newsletter a bit is the conditions that caused me to choose weekly publishing are no longer as dominant. Back in 2020 when I started with WACD, there were concerns about WACD's transparency. I chose a weekly schedule to help demonstrate transparency. That was more than four years ago and it feels like we've largely moved beyond the transparency concern.

Finally, I am sensitive to the information overload conservation districts are experiencing. We are seeing fewer opens and clicks of links. For example, the August 6, 2020 issue was opened by 58.5% of subscribers and 30.9% clicked at least one link. The August 1, 2024 issue was opened by 42.9% of subscribers and only 14.7% clicked a link. I think the quality of our information has improved over time, so one reason for the decline may be information overload. I've heard from many district folks that they just can't keep up with all the information pouring into their email inbox.

WACD staff will discuss this with WACD Officers to hear their thoughts on reducing the frequency of the Five Things newsletter. Your input on the frequency, content, and quality of these newsletters would be appreciated as well. Please send your thoughts to oly@wacd.org.

Books

I picked up another batch of books for [my business library](#). I'm happy to loan anything to conservation district folks, just ask. The new additions entering the library include:

- **On Managing Yourself**, Harvard Business Review

- **Getting Things Done**, by David Allen
- **The Little Black Book of Business Math**, by Michael C. Thomsett
- **Launching a Leadership Revolution**, by Chris Brady and Orrin Woodward
- **Public Speaking for Dummies**, by Malcolm Kushner
- **Nonprofit Kit for Dummies**, by Stan Hutton and Frances N. Phillips
- **The 8th Habit**, by Stephen R. Covey
- **The Art of Work**, by Jeff Goins

My simple observation is that no single author has all the answers, but every author usually makes at least a few deeply insightful points. I enjoy digging out those gems and trying to fit them into my thinking...or sometimes, allowing them to change how I approach management and service.

Closing thoughts

Some closing thoughts come from the new library additions above!

What is leadership?

"Leadership is the influence of others in a productive, vision-driven direction and is done through the example, conviction, and character of the leader." —Chris Brady and Orrin Woodward

Are you resilient?

"Resilient people...possess three characteristics: a staunch acceptance of reality; a deep belief, often buttressed by strongly held values, that life is meaningful; and an uncanny ability to improvise. You can bounce back from hardship with just one or two of these qualities, but you will only be truly resilient with all three. These three characteristics hold true for resilient organizations as well." — How Resilience Works by Diane L. Coudu in *On Managing Yourself*.

From **The 8th Habit** by Stephen R. Covey:

"Being effective as individuals and organizations is no longer optional in today's world—it's the price of entry to the playing field. But surviving, thriving, innovating, excelling and leading in this new reality will require us to build on and reach beyond effectiveness. The call and need of a new era is for greatness. It's for fulfillment, passionate execution, and significant contribution. These are on a different plane or dimension...Tapping into the higher reaches of human genius and motivation—what we could call voice—requires a new mind-set, a new skill-set, a new tool-set...a new habit."

We'd like to hear from you

As always, we'd like to receive your ideas and questions. Please contact us at oly@wacd.org. Emails sent to that address reach the entire Executive Office team!

Always yours for conservation,



Latest Posts on the Hub

- [PMC Update for September 4, 2024](#)
- [Countywide wildfire survey will be backbone of ideas to reduce life, safety risks](#)
- [Chehalis Basin Strategy progress in review](#)
- [Thurston Conservation District's Annual Fall Native Bulb and Seed Sale Pre-Orders Are Open Now](#)
- [Unprecedented collaboration drives local stream restoration](#)
- [Grays Harbor Stream Team Coordinator](#)

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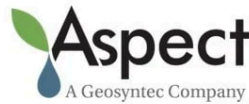
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Pass it on!

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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