

# Partner Update for WACD from Washington Association of District Employees

November 2022

President: Cindy Pierce, Skagit CD  
Vice President: Craig Nelson, Okanogan CD  
Secretary: Maria Chang-Ward, King CD  
Treasurer: Dawn Bekenyi, Whatcom CD  
Director 1: Bobbi Lindemulder, Snohomish CD  
Director 2: Dave Hedrick, Ferry CD  
Director 3: Vacant  
Past President: Bill Blake, Skagit CD

The 2022 WADE Training Conference was held in-person as well as virtually, after two years of being only held on a virtual platform, due to the Covid pandemic.

This was WADE's 28th year! Conference highlights:

- NACD Michael Crowder was virtual and shared what resources are available for CDs and national policy news.
- We welcomed Chris Pettit as the WSCC new executive director.
- Roylene Comes At Night presented an NRCS update.
- Tom Salzer gave a WACD update
- WADE Board conducted a business meeting and held officer elections.
  - Bill Blake, Skagit CD and current WADE President, nominated Cindy Pierce for President. No other nominations were made, and Cindy accepted the position.
  - Craig Nelson, Okanogan was nominated for Vice President. No other nominations were made, and Craig accepted the position.
  - Maria Cheng, King CD was nominated for Secretary. No other nominations were made, and Maria accepted the nomination.
  - Bobbi Lindemulder, Snohomish CD is nominated for Director 1 position to replace Nikki Wolf, King CD. No other nominations were made, and Bobbi accepted the nomination.
  - Dave Hedrick, Ferry CD is nominated for the Director 2 position. No other nominations were made, and Dave accepted the position.
  - WADE Financial Report: Dawn Bekenyi reports that WADE had 200 registrations and gave \$25,000 in scholarships.
- Employee of the Year: Nikki calls up the nominees; Cindy Pierce, Skagit CD, Jodi Prout, Palouse CD, Kathryn Wells, Snohomish CD, Kim Kogler, Okanogan CD, Margaret Kreder, Mason CD and Patrick Haggerty, Cascadia CD. Both Cindy and Patrick were awarded employees of the year.
- Jan Thomas and Ryan Williams gave a CTD update and overview of the next three conference days
- Nick Bond, Washington State Climatologist was the Keynote Speaker
- There were 49 track sessions offered on topics including district administration, riparian systems, forest health, agriculture and grazing, soil health, GIS/IT, and many more.
- Envirothon raised over \$1,000 from trivia proceeds.
- The WADE silent auction raised almost \$1,800 for scholarships next year.

- Recognition and thanks were given to our track coordinators: Cori Turntine, Christopher Towe, Emmett Wild, Eric Schuh, Carrie Brausleck, Stacey Dixon, Andrew Phay, Drew Schuldt, and Ryan Williams; WADE officers were also recognized. A huge thank you was given to the WSCC for \$20,000 in scholarships and to WACD for the additional \$5,000, that allowed most to attend in person this year, and Sleeping Lady Mountain Resort for the wonderful food and accommodations.
- The CTD worked with WADE board and track coordinators to create an in-person as well as virtual platform for this year's conference.
- The New Employee Orientation had at least 75 new employees in attendance. This is a significant increase over previous years' numbers of new employees and represents a monumental change in the number of new CD employees around the state.
- Lawn Games proved exceptionally important for long-time CD staff to reconnect and for newer employees to meet others and learn about each other's programs. This social event continues to prove important for CD employees and supervisors to form professional connections that are utilized throughout the coming year for mentoring, learning, and sharing ideas.

## 2023 Conference

The WADE conference planning is in process. The in-person event will happen again at the Sleeping Lady Mountain Resort and will also be held either virtually or video recorded for later viewing. The tentative dates are June 12-14, 2023.

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*The mission of the Washington Association of District Employees is to increase the effectiveness of conservation districts and their employees; foster a mutual partnership between conservation agencies, organizations, and associations through enhanced communication and professional improvement.*

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