

WACD Annual NE Area Meeting

October 20, 2020

Host: Stevens County Conservation District

Attendees:

Washington State Conservation Commission	Carol Smith, Shana Joy, Bill Eller, Jean Fike, Dean Longrie, Kate Delavan
Washington Association of Conservation Districts	Tom Salzer, Ryan Baye, Doug Rushton, Jeanette Dorner
Natural Resource Conservation Service	Roylene Comes At Night, Jon George, Nick Vira, Nathan Gallahan
Ferry County Conservation District	Dave Hedrick
Lincoln County Conservation District	Elsa Bowen, Braidy Haden, Jeff Schibel, Chris Laney, Delaini Disher, Conner Nikkola, Val Vissia
Pend Oreille Conservation District	Mike Munford, Alex Case-Cohen, Kevin Bush
Spokane Conservation District	Jerry Scheele, Vicki Carter, Cori Turntine
Stevens County Conservation District	Dean Hellie, Tom McKern, Linda Hansen, Avrum Baum

Welcome and Introductions

Tom McKern, Stevens County Vice Chairman of the Board of Supervisors opened the meeting at 9:00. He welcomed the group and invited everyone to introduce themselves.

Conservation Leadership Forum

Washington State Conservation Commission

Chair & Executive Director

Carol Smith, Commission Executive Director shared a power point presentation that highlighted:

- 2021-2023 State Budget that begins in July of 2021.
- Elections that have potential for policy changes for future Conservation Districts' elections.
- Resolutions – Review of past/status

Carol also gave out special recognition awards:

- Cori Turntine from Spokane County Conservation District was named Employee of the Year.
- Jeff Schibel from Lincoln County Conservation District was named Supervisor of the Year.
- Northeast District of the Year – Lincoln County Conservation District

Washington Association of Conservation Districts

Tom Salzer, Executive Director of WACD introduced Jeanette Dorner, President of the Board of Supervisors.

Natural Resources Conservation Services

State Conservationist Roylene Comes At Night

Roylene provided an overview of NRCS activities and projects. NRCS is still looking to increase their staff size. They have 144 employees as of today.

Jon George, Area Conservationist from NRCS, gave an update on NRCS activities and projects for the Eastern Region.

Question and Answer Interactive Panel Session for Audience and WSCC, WACD, and NRCS Leadership

Questions were asked throughout the presentations.

Resolutions

One resolution was presented by Stevens County Conservation District.

This resolution was short titled: Local Cooperation between NRCS Teams & Conservation District Boards.

The Chairman acknowledged the due pass recommendation.

Mike Mumford from NRCS moved to adopt this resolution, Jerry Scheele from Spokane Conservation District seconded. Motion carried.

District Issues and Presentations

Valerie Vissia, Communication Coordinator of Lincoln CD

Valerie shared a presentation that was of the Whitney Road fire that included interviews with some of the Davenport Fire Department.

Lincoln County is working with Firewise USA.

Fuels Reduction

Water Monitoring

VSP, CRP and Orca recovery.

Dave Hedrick, Director of Ferry CD

Dave shared a presentation "A year of making the best of a bad situation" of what projects Ferry County has been working on.

3F2P; Curlew Lake's water quality improvement; VSP; Fire recovery, plant sale, working with the school districts to help students make the connection to science and agriculture.

Mike Mumford, Supervisor of Pend Oreille CD

Mike told of a year of many setbacks.

David Marcell departed in June and they have been in the process of interviewing and hiring a new Director. As of last week Alex Case-Cohen, Natural Resource/Farm Planner from Stevens County Conservation District was offered and accepted the position of Director of Pend Oreille CD. Alex is expected to begin her new role in the district on November 1, 2020.

Pend Oreille CD has managed to still be actively working with PUD; VSP; and air quality monitoring.

Vicki Carter, Director of Spokane CD

Vicki shared a presentation named "From the Ground Up".

3F2P program has been very successful

Livestock and Land Program is going well.

Honeymoon Bay Septic Pilot Program at Newman Lake was highlighted.

The Shoreline Stabilization Program was developed in the Millwood area on the Spokane River.

RCPP and Commodity Buffer Program is promoting production in agriculture.
The VSP project is in the South Spokane Farm Corridor that has expanded to 21 local farms.
The Vets on the Farm program is spreading opportunity for veterans in farming.
Truck to Trunk is a no contact food delivery program.
Rocks to Roots has a variety of pod casts to view and learn from.
Vicki showed the audience a picture of the "New and upcoming Spokane Conservation Campus being built. The estimated date for completion is January 2021.
Vicki wanted to remind everyone about RC&D Grants.

Dean Hellie, Director of Stevens County CD

Dean shared a presentation on all of the projects that are current or have been completed.
The Snow Investigations are teaching students about Watersheds.
The Annual Meeting was well attended. Andy Kroiss was reelected as the Chair of the SCCD board.
The Big Tree Contest was a huge success this year, raising \$7450.00.
Tree Sales went very well, despite Covid 19. It went smooth with no contact sells.
There were (2) 3F2P projects completed in the county with excellent results.
The district was awarded a Western SARE Grant to develop soil health practices.
There were 2 NRI projects completed.
The district was awarded a 2020 Technical Assistance Grant from NACD to hire a Natural Resource Technician to share with NRCS.
Working on Flood Plans by design.

Area Business

Approve minutes of 2019 Area Meeting

Revisions for 2019 minutes:

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Under Upper Columbia RC&D Council, change Jerry Scheele from Chairman to Treasurer.

Chairman McKern asked if there were any other corrections that were needed on the 2019 minutes.
None were brought up.

The 2019 Area Meeting minutes were unanimously approved after correction.

Amendment of Area Articles and By-Laws

There are none for the NE Area at this time.

Election of Area Director

Jerry Sheele from Spokane County CD nominated Jeff Schieble from Lincoln County CD. Braidy Haden from Lincoln County CD seconded. It was unanimously approved.

Ryan Baye and Tom Salzer gave a progress report from WACD.

- [1--2020--Progress report on strategic plan development](#)

- [2--2020--Progress report on Finance Committee recommendations](#)
- [3--2020--Non-voting membership class](#)
- [4--2020--WACD Term of Office](#)

The WACD Annual Conference is scheduled for November 30th – December 3rd.

Ferry County Conservation District will host the 2021 WACD NE Area Meeting.

Mike Mumford from PO County CD moved to adjourn the meeting, Jerry Scheele from Spokane CD seconded. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.