**Washington Association of Conservation Districts**

Remote Connection through Zoom

January 17, 2021

Summary of Board Motions

* **Motion**: Doug Rushton moved to adopt the agenda with two amendments. Second by Jeff Schibel. Motion carried with Amy McKay’s abstention.
	+ Remove “Annual Conference Update”
	+ Amend “Adopt November & December Minutes” to read “Adopt November Meeting summary”
* **Motion**: Bill Blake moved to adopt the November Meeting Summary. Second by Mary Collins. Amy McKay abstention. Motion carried.
* **Motion**: Amy McKay moved to approve the treasurer’s report. Second by Barbara Bailey. Motion carried.
* **Motion**: Amy McKay moved to authorize no more than $10,000 for hiring a consultant to assist in the creation of an Annual Work Plan. And shift WACD’s work plan to coincide with fiscal year. Second by Doug Rushton. Motion carried.
* **Motion:** Amy McKay moved to adopt a salmon riparian habitat position statement. Second by Bill Blake. Motion carried.

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Board of Directors January Business Meeting Minutes

Members Remotely Present

Mike Mumford, President (Pend Oreille CD)

Amy McKay, Vice President (Whitman CD)

Barbara Bailey, Secretary (Underwood CD)

Dave Fenn, Treasurer (Lewis CD)

Doug Rushton, National Director (Thurston CD)

Jeanette Dorner, Past President (Pierce CD)

Alan Chapman, Northwest Area Director (Whatcom CD)

Lisa Zaborac, Southwest Area Director (Grays Harbor CD)

John Preston, North Central Area Director (Grant County CD)

Jeff Schibel, Northeast Area Director (Lincoln County CD)

Mary Collins, Southeast Area Director (Palouse CD)

Bill Blake, WADE President (Skagit CD)

Others Remotely Present

Tom Salzer, WACD Executive Director

Ryan Baye, WACD Legislative & Membership Lead

Jim Brown, WACD Nursery Director

Mark Craven, Snohomish CD Supervisor

Kirk Robinson, WSCC Interim Executive Director

President Mumford called the meeting to order at 6 PM. Ryan Baye conducted roll call to establish the presence of a quorum, and informed the Board of Marshall Stowe’s resignation.

Doug Rushton moved to adopt the agenda with two amendments. Second by Jeff Schibel. Motion carried with Amy McKay’s abstention.

* Remove “Annual Conference Update”
* Amend “Adopt November & December Minutes” to read “Adopt November Meeting summary”

**Area Highlight**

Jeff Schibel spoke for Lincoln County CD, and having spoken with all five NE area managers in the last week. Other than commenting on the CD Elections bill, there were no major updates. Mike Mumford also spoke with the five NE area managers, thanked Jeff for making that personal connection in WACD/district interactions.

**Adopt November Meeting Summary**

Ryan Baye shared the November and December full minutes were not available because of the legislative session taking up so much of his time. That only a summary of the November meeting was available, to at least make the motions of that meeting official. Bill Blake moved to adopt the November Meeting Summary. Second by Mary Collins. Amy McKay abstention. Motion carried.

**Treasurer’s Report**

Dave Fenn had nothing major to report based off of last month’s financials. He answered questions about listing NYCD’s lack of dues as a “bad debt”. Jim Brown answered questions regarding the increase in PMC expenses and aged receivables. Amy McKay moved to approve the treasurer’s report. Second by Barbara Bailey. Motion carried.

Dave Fenn presented a proposed change to WACD’s investment strategy to capture stock market gains while the Investment Task Force conducts its work. There were questions about the goals of the Task Force, how much money would be moved under the proposal, and what the potential loss of expected income would be for taking money out of the market for 90 days. Dave Fenn moved to transfer $200,000 from WACD’s investment account to a 90-day certificate of deposit. The motion failed for lack of a second.

**NACD Annual Conference**

Doug Rushton presented on attendees and meetings in Orlando in February and that neither he or NACD Alternate Wade Troutman would be attending. Mike Mumford agreed to approach Larry Davis to serve as WACD’s representative while at the conference.

**Annual Work Plan Proposal**

Tom Salzer submitted a proposal to outsource the preparation of WACD’s Annual Work Plan to a consultant, and shift WACD’s work plan to coincide with the association’s fiscal year rather than the calendar year. He answered questions about cost, budget constraints, and WACD’s bidding process. Amy McKay moved to authorize no more than $10,000 for hiring a consultant to assist in the creation of an Annual Work Plan. And shift WACD’s work plan to coincide with fiscal year. Second by Doug Rushton. Motion carried.

**Special Committees**

Mike Mumford spoke to four committees to be formed from resolutions adopted at the Annual Meeting, asking for feedback from Board as he starts going through the appointment process.

**Legislative Priorities**

Ryan Baye presented a list of draft legislative priorities based on resolutions currently on the books. He wanted the board’s input on two uncertainties for this year – HB 1910 as an alternative CD elections bill and how much WACD wanted to weigh in on any salmon riparian habitat legislative push. The board discussed the pros and cons of different levels of engagement, the effect on district partners, and how a previous lack of legislative funding for incentive programs was affecting current discussions. Amy McKay moved to adopt a salmon riparian habitat position statement. Second by Bill Blake. Motion carried.

WACD supports the goal of salmon recovery and believes it should not be achieved at the expense of poorly funded time-tested and effective voluntary conservation delivery system. Conservation districts exist to provide an incentive-based approach to natural resource conservation, yet are hindered by the absence of the necessary financial commitment to achieving the outcome of improved salmon habitat. We seek to increase the state's support for voluntary conservation programs like VSP, CREP, or EQIP as part of any salmon recovery proposal.”

**Annual Business Meeting Investigation**

Tom Salzer reviewed the results of the investigation of the Annual Business Meeting with the board, done at the request of President Mumford. Mike Mumford answered questions about his perspective of his conversations with the involved parties and wanted to “correct the record” of words being attributed to him.

Meeting adjourned at 8:26.