

Washington Association of Conservation Districts

May 2023 Meeting Motions

- **Motion:** Doug Rushton moved to approve the agenda as presented. Second by Mary Collins. Motion carried.
- **Motion:** Alan Chapman moved to adopt the April meeting minutes as presented. Second by Doug Rushton. Motion carried.
- **Motion:** Barbara Bailey moved to authorize the Executive Director to direct funds from non-Executive Office accounts to cover expenses. Second by Dave Fenn. Motion carried.
- **Motion:** Jeff Schibel moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. Second by Chris Porter. Motion carried.

Washington Association of Conservation Districts

Remote Connection through Zoom

May 15, 2023

Business Meeting Minutes

Members Remotely Present

Mike Mumford, President (Pend Oreille CD)

Amy McKay, Vice President (Whitman CD)

Barbara Bailey, Secretary (Underwood CD)

David Fenn, Treasurer (Lewis CD)

Doug Rushton, National Director (Thurston CD)

Jeanette Dorner, Past President (Pierce CD)

Alan Chapman, Northwest Area Director (Whatcom CD)

Chris Porter, Northwest Area Director (King CD)

Lisa Zaborac, Southwest Area Director (Grays Harbor CD)

Jerry Kolke, Southwest Area Director (Clark CD)

John Preston, North Central Area Director (Columbia Basin CD)

John McLean, North Central Area Director (Foster Creek CD)

Jack Clark, South Central Area Director (Benton CD)

Jeff Schibel, Northeast Area Director (Lincoln County CD)

John Floyd, Northeast Area Director (Pend Oreille CD)

Mary Collins, Southeast Area Director (Palouse CD)

Cindy Pierce, WADE President (Skagit CD)

Others Remotely Present

Tom Salzer, WACD Executive Director

Ryan Baye, WACD Legislative & Membership Director

Jim Brown, WACD Director of Nursery Operations

Elsa Bowen, Lincoln County CD District Manager

Kirk Robinson, WSCC Interim Executive Director

Roylene Comes at Night, NRCS-Washington State Conservationist

President Mumford called the meeting to order at 6 o'clock. Doug Rushton moved to approve the agenda as presented. Second by Mary Collins. Motion carried.

Area Focus

Elsa Bowen presented an update on the programs and highlights at Lincoln County Conservation District, focusing on their recent district election where a ballot was sent to every registered voter in the district. She also discussed their backlog of 21 projects and the need for the Odessa Aquifer Groundwater Replacement Program. She answered questions about the election turnout, associated costs and responses, and the source of the funding. Jeff Schibel added how the district staff do an awesome job and the good relationship between the LCCD Supervisors and staff.

John Floyd and Mike Mumford reported for Pend Oreille Conservation District and how their next meeting would be in the northern part of the county to encourage local residents to attend. They also provided information about renovations to their district owned building and new staff coming on board at POCD. There was a discussion about the success and challenges in hosting district board meetings in several locations over the course of a year.

Public Comment

No one from the public wished to give a public comment.

Previous Meeting Minutes

Alan Chapman moved to adopt the previous meeting's minutes as presented. Second by Doug Rushton. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Dave Fenn reported the investment account had regained some of the decline from the past year and that the PMC has a significant profit at this point of the fiscal year. Tom Salzer walked through the April Financial Highlights, and explained the need for authorization to utilize funds from the "IRS account" to cover Executive Office expenses. Barbara Bailey moved to authorize the Executive Director to direct funds from non-Executive Office accounts to cover expenses. Second by Dave Fenn. Tom Salzer answered questions about the pros and cons of the transfer, adjusting financial assumptions at the start of the fiscal year, and how WACD had purposefully drawn on spending from unutilized reserves the last couple years. Motion carried.

Jeff Schibel moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. Second by Chris Porter. Motion carried.

Partner Reports

Kirk Robinson reported for the Conservation Commission about the legislative session just ended and the Commission already thinking about emphasizing the importance of Conservation Technical Assistance in the supplemental budget. Kirk gave additional information on upcoming Commission meeting agenda items, including the Executive Director Selection Committee. He answered questions about the timeline for the hire and his own departure from the interim position in September. Mike Mumford added his own emphasis on Commission transparency during the search as WACD's representative.

Doug Rushton reported there would be a Conservation Society meeting at the end of June. In his role as National Director, he asked the Area Directors to contact their local districts after reviewing the list of NACD dues payers to thank those who've paid and inquire for those who haven't.

Roylene Comes at Night shared a report from the Natural Resource Conservation Service, focusing the impact of new IRA funds on the agency. There would be an expected increase in obligations, new staff, and changes to current procedures. She spoke of new discussions with partners like the Conservation Commission and the Dairy Federation on new staff. State Conservationist Comes at Night ended with information on new programmatic funding opportunities and how information was changing from week to week.

Cindy Pierce, as WADE President, said that conference registration closed the previous Friday for the 2023 WADE Conference with over 270 attendees planned. She asked for donated silent auction items.

Legislative Update

WACD Lobbyist Brynn Brady joined for the listed agenda item. She detailed the legislature's special session scheduled for the next day to address "Blake Decision" on drug possession law. She also was focused on the state budget due to be signed the same day. She reported to the WACD Board she had heard about Governor's unhappiness with the final outcome of the riparian buffer legislation, but talked with policy staff and no concerns about riparian language. She also reported on the various declared and rumored candidates for statewide elected offices.

Correspondence Sent

Mike Mumford shared with the Board a copy of the correspondence he sent to Cowlitz and Wahkiakum, so they were informed of the most recent communication.

Committee Update

Ryan Baye shared an activity report on five of WACD's committee and work groups:

- Finance Committee
- Sustainable Funding Committee
- Livestock Committee
- Shared Resources Work Group
- Tribal Relations Committee

Draft Budget

Tom Salzer presented to the Board members a first draft of the FY 2024 budget. He led the discussion around the assumptions for plant sales, potential sponsorships, and a potential increase in prices at the PMC.

3rd Executive Office Staff Person

Tom Salzer presented to the Board his reasoning for the need for a third staff person in the Executive Office, and was urged by several members to include that individual in the proposed FY24 budget for the Board's consideration.

Yearly Executive Director Performance Review

The Board went into an executive session at 8:10, pursuant to (RCW 42.30.110(1)(g) to review the performance of a public employee with the Officers and Directors present as well as Legislative & Membership Director Ryan Baye. There was an announcement to the public for a return at 8:25. The public session continued at 8:25, where a twenty-minute continuance of the executive session was

announced. The public session continued at 8:45, where a fifteen-minute continuance of the executive session was announced. The board reconvened at 9:00.

Announcements

Ryan Baye reminded the Board that the June meeting would be held on the 26th at the Plant Materials Center in Bow, he would be sending out a link for a hotel later in the week.

President Mumford adjourned the meeting at 9:01.