



Washington Association of Conservation Districts

Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday ● June 21, 2016

9:00 – 4:00

**Hal Holmes Center – Teanaway Room
209 North Ruby Street – Ellensburg, WA**

MOTIONS

- A motion was made by Dean Longrie to approve the minutes of the February 22, 2016 Board of Directors meeting as presented. Motion received a second from Jerry Hendrickson and passed.
- A motion was made by Michael Crowder to approve the financial report as presented. Motion received a second from Dean Longrie and passed.
- A motion was made by Karen Bishop to approve the budget adjustments as presented. Motion received a second from Dean Longrie and passed.
- A motion was made by Michael Crowder to let the current work plan roll over for 2016-2017. Motion received a second from Mark Moore and passed.
- A motion was made by Dean Longrie to approve the FY 2016-17 budget as presented. Motion received a second from Doug Rushton and passed.
- A motion was made by Dean Longrie to approve hiring Robert Schroeter as WACD Executive Director, subject to completion of contract negotiations by the Executive Committee. Motion received a second from Jerry Hendrickson and passed.
- A motion was made by Dean Longrie to set the compensation package not to exceed \$110,000. Motion received a second from Michael Crowder and passed with one vote against.
- The meeting was declared adjourned by unanimous consent.



Washington Association of Conservation Districts

Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday ● June 21, 2016

9:00 – 4:00

Hal Holmes Center – Teanaway Room
209 North Ruby Street – Ellensburg, WA

Board of Directors Present

Mark Craven, Snohomish, President
Tom Miller, Spokane, Vice President
Larry Davis, Whatcom, Secretary-Treasurer
Alan Stromberger, Lincoln, Past President
Michael Crowder, Benton, National Director
Dean Longrie, Clark, SW Area Director
Doug Rushton, Thurston, SW Area Director
John McLean, Foster Creek, NC Area Director
John Preston, Grant, NC Area Director
Mark Moore, Kittitas, SC Area Director
Gail Thornton, No. Yakima, SC Area Director
John W. Floyd, Pend Oreille, NE Area Director
Eddie Johnson, Lincoln, NE Area Director
Jerry Hendrickson, Asotin, SE Area Director
Karen Bishop, Whidbey, WADE President

Board Members Unable to Attend

Jeff Ellingson, Snohomish, NW Area Director
Dick Ryon, King, NW Area Director
VACANT, SE Area Director

WACD Staff Present

Lori McLaughlin, WACD/PMC, Bookkeeper/
Admin. Assistant
Jim Brown, PMC Manager/Technical Advisor

Others Attending All or Part of Meeting

Mark Clark, Executive Director, WSCC
Jim Jesernig, WACD Govt. Relations & Consultant
Vicki Carter, Spokane, District Manager

The meeting was called to order at 9:08am by President Mark Craven. Self-introductions were made by the board members and audience members. General comments were made by President Craven. Larry Davis reviewed the agenda and noted a couple of changes.

Dean Longrie shared an observation that Commission discretionary funds are distributed such that bigger districts with resources get a larger share than smaller districts. He is looking for rationale from the Commission. Larry Davis commented that a possible way forward would be to let the new Executive Director work with the Board on the strategic plan, and also consider recommendations from the Commission's Good Governance Study Committee. Mark Clark shared that the discussion needs to include all districts as to what is fair. The Good Governance report might include a performance element.

WACD BUSINESS

Minutes – A **motion** was made by Dean Longrie to approve the minutes of the February 22, 2016 Board of Directors meeting as presented. Motion received a second from Jerry Hendrickson and passed.

Financial Report – Larry Davis presented the financial report. A **motion** was made by Michael Crowder to approve the financial report as presented. Motion received a second from Dean Longrie and passed.

Executive Director Search – Larry Davis shared the results of the interview process. Six candidates were interviewed on June 10. The unanimous recommendation to the Board of Directors, from the Search Committee which included all members of the Executive Committee, is to hire Robert Schroeter as the next WACD Executive Director. Larry noted that Bob would be joining the Board in the afternoon to introduce himself and let the Board members ask questions.

Budget Close-Out for FY 2015-16 – Larry Davis and Lori McLaughlin shared the close-out report and recommended approval of necessary technical adjustments. At the end of FY16, WACD will be about \$43,000 in the black due to savings from open staff positions and reconfiguring of insurance. A **motion** was made by Karen Bishop to approve the budget adjustments as presented. Motion received a second from Dean Longrie and passed.

WACD Annual Work Plan – Larry Davis recommended that the current work plan roll over until a new Executive Director is hired. A **motion** was made by Michael Crowder to let the current work plan roll over for 2016-2017. Motion received a second from Mark Moore and passed.

FY 2016-17 Budget – Larry Davis presented the draft operating budget for the 2016-17 fiscal year. He indicated that it was built on last year's budget with some technical adjustments. A **motion** was made by Dean Longrie to approve the FY 2016-17 budget as presented. Motion received a second from Doug Rushton and passed.

2016 Dues Statements – Lori McLaughlin shared information about the dues structure and process. Eddie Johnson stated that the Association needs to determine how to respond to the Adams CD - it does not pay dues and gets extra funds from the Commission.

2017-19 State Operating & Capital Budget Decision Packages – Information incorporated into discussion on WACD Legislative Report & State Biennial Budget in the afternoon.

INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION

PMC History – PMC Manager Jim Brown provided the Board a history and overview of the Plant Materials Center. He shared that the PMC produced about \$90,000 in net revenue for the year just ended.

Education and Conservation – Karen Bishop presented the idea of linking conservation to K-12 funding. There was brief discussion.

Book Report – John Floyd expressed a strong desire that everyone read, "**Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder**", by Richard Louv.

NACD Update – Michael Crowder provided an update on NACD activities as relates to WACD input and involvement.

WACD Legislative Report & State Biennial Budget – Jim Jesernig set out the context for the next legislative session by reviewing the election season variables: control of the House and Senate, ballot issues, and the budget challenges for WACD and the Commission in light of continuing pressure to fully fund K-12 via the McLeary decision. Jim stressed the importance of CD outreach to individual legislators and stakeholders. Developing relationships with legislators and meeting with them now and after November is crucial.

Mark Clark and Ron Schultz provided an update on work done to date resulting from the April 20-21 all districts meeting in Ellensburg. They shared that helpful information for engagement with legislators and other elected officials and stakeholders is located on the WSCC marketing webpage -

<http://scc.wa.gov/marketing-toolkit/>. Key points shared:

- Use before and after data (e.g. numbers, photos, monitoring data, etc.) to show positive changes resulting from projects using voluntary, incentive-based programs to counteract assertions that the programs are not working.
- Talk about the success stories and what has worked.
- Identify landowners who have been helped in your CD and would be willing to talk with their legislators (and other elected officials) about the positive experience.

WACD 2015 Resolutions Update – Larry Davis recommended holding this over until the new Executive Director is on board. There was consensus to accept the recommendation.

WACD 2016 Supervisor Elections – Larry Davis indicated that positions for Area Director are up for election at the fall Area Meetings. Information will go out to all districts and managers.

WACD Annual Meeting Update – Larry Davis shared that he is chairing the planning committee since the meeting will be in Whatcom County at Semiahmoo Resort in Blaine. The committee is meeting via conference call and the pieces are beginning to come together.

Future Meeting Locations – Lori McLaughlin reported that she would be visiting some sites in Central Washington. It is hoped that the Board will have enough information on options for its September meeting to make a decision.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Robert Schroeter, the candidate for Executive Director recommended by the Executive Committee for hire, was introduced and he provided background on himself. Board members had an opportunity to ask questions.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board excused Bob and one guest in the audience to go into executive session to discuss the hire recommendation from the Search Committee and Executive Committee.

REGULAR SESSION

The Board reconvened in regular session. A **motion** was made by Dean Longrie to approve hiring Robert Schroeter as WACD Executive Director, subject to completion of contract negotiations by the Executive Committee. Motion received a second from Jerry Hendrickson and passed.

A **motion** was made by Dean Longrie to set the compensation package not to exceed \$110,000. Motion received a second from Michael Crowder and passed with one vote against.

PARTNER REPORTS

There were brief partner reports from:

- Karen Bishop reported on the Washington Association of District Employees (WADE). The annual WADE conference was held last week, with about 230 in attendance, of which 15-16 were supervisors. A three-year contract for hosting WADE was signed with Sleeping Lady Mountain Resort (Leavenworth).
- Mark Clark reported on the Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC).
- Alan McBee, representing State Conservationist Roylene Rides at the Door, reported on the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).
- Larry Davis reported on the Washington Conservation Society (WCS). Larry shared that the Society has a brand new website and encouraged the board to check it out. <http://www.waconservationsociety.org/>
- Michael Crowder reported on the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD).

CLOSING COMMENTS

Mark Craven asked Denise Smee to be the lead staff on a work group to explore possible linking of conservation with K-12 funding.

Mark Craven shared that Kelly Susewind, Special Assistant for Water Policy to the Director of the Department of Ecology is open to becoming a better partner and perhaps start with the stormwater issue.

The next Board meeting will be on September 27th, 9:00-4:00, at the Hal Holmes Center in Ellensburg.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was declared adjourned by unanimous consent.