

## Washington Association of Conservation Districts

Remote Connection through Zoom

April 19, 2021

### Summary of Board Actions

- **Motion:** Mike Mumford moved to adopt the agenda as presented, with one amendment striking the 7:40 “SB 5172 Discussion” agenda item and adding the unallocated time to “Legislative Update”. Second by Chris Porter. Motion carried.
- **Motion:** Dean Longrie moved to approve the February and March minutes as presented. Second by Jeff Schibel. Motion carried.
- **Motion:** Dean Longrie moved to accept the Treasurer’s Financial Report. Second by John McLean. Motion carried.
- **Motion:** Dean Longrie moved the board adopt a resolution recognizing the PMC’s hard work and congratulating their successes. Second by Mark Craven. Motion carried.
- **Motion:** Dean Longrie moved to authorize Tom Salzer to spend up to \$10,000 from the Supervisor Leadership Development Fund to hire a facilitator for the DEI Special Committee. Second by Doug Rushton. Motion carried.

## Washington Association of Conservation Districts

### Board of Directors April Board Meeting Minutes

Remote Connection through Zoom

April 19, 2021

#### Members Remotely Present

Jeanette Dorner, President (Pierce CD)  
Mike Mumford, Vice President (Pend Oreille CD)  
Dave Fenn, Treasurer (Lewis CD)  
Doug Rushton, National Director (Thurston CD)  
Mark Craven, Past President (Snohomish CD)  
Chris Porter, Northwest Area Director (King CD)  
Alan Chapman, Northwest Area Director (Whatcom CD)  
Dean Longrie, Southwest Area Director (Clark CD)  
John Keatley, Southwest Area Director (Cowlitz CD)  
John McLean, North Central Area Director (Foster Creek CD)  
Cindy Reed, South Central Area Director (North Yakima CD)  
Barbara Bailey, South Central Area Director (Underwood 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 PMC Nursery Manager  
Carol Smith, WSCC Executive Director  
Roylene Comes at Night, NRCS State Conservationist

Jeanette Dorner called the meeting to order at 6:05. Ryan Baye conducted a roll call to confirm a quorum of voting members were present. Introductions of those present were made. Jeanette presented the draft agenda, with additional information on a miscommunication over an agenda item. Mike Mumford moved to adopt the agenda as presented, with one amendment striking the 7:40 "SB 5172 Discussion" agenda item and adding the unallocated time to "Legislative Update". Second by Chris Porter. Motion carried.

### **Area Director Reports**

Mary Collins was the only Southeast Area Director present. She spoke recently with three of the CDs in Whitman County, who were all getting out and getting busy with projects.

The two Northwest Area Directors reported on the progress of multiple districts in searching for new district managers. Chris Porter reported on an arson that burned King CD's plant nursery.

The Southwest Area districts were out working in the field, preparing to make full use of the hydraulic window. Some districts were writing 5-Year VSP reports, others were dealing with county problems. Thurston CD Executive Director Sarah Moorehead was the subject of a recent Puget Sound Business Journal Article and their district was also looking at moving to a new location or building their own office.

Cindy Reed and Barbara Bailey reported on how districts were finishing up plant sales, conducting virtual workshops, and getting out to start on conservation projects in the South-Central Area.

John McLean reported as the only North Central Area Director present on how districts he'd spoken with were focused largely on fire prevention and fire recovery projects.

Jeff Schibel reported on lots of fire recovery projects in Lincoln County and the new office building built by Spokane CD. He also spoke of a memorial garden for two of their former supervisors and recent chemical shortages were affecting local cooperators maintaining conservation projects/implementing best management practices.

### **Minutes**

Jeanette Dorner presented the draft minutes from February and March as prepared by staff and reviewed by Secretary Amy McKay. Dean Longrie moved to approve the February and March minutes as presented. Second by Jeff Schibel. Motion carried.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Dave Fenn reported on the latest financial report with nothing unusual to note. He was pleased revenue and expenses were close to projected, with very high PMC sales. He noted the investment account year-to-date growth was several hundred thousand dollars and that the Finance Committee was meeting regularly. Dean Longrie moved to accept the Treasurer's Financial Report. Second by John McLean. Motion carried.

### **Nursery Manager Report**

Jim Brown reported on the nursery's harvest progress. The PMC's financial position was comfortable, contrasting with the uncertainty of the beginning of the year. The PMC had about a month of sales left and were discounting their remaining stock. He reported on some of the purchasing patterns this year and projecting out for the next season. Sales Manager Jess Oman had submitted her resignation and would be ending her employment soon. Jim had started a job search, hoping for someone to be in place before the start of sales season. Dean Longrie moved the board adopt a resolution recognizing the PMC's hard work and congratulating their successes. Second by Mark Craven. Motion carried.

### **Partner Reports**

Carol Smith reported for the Commission on NACD Fly-In Congressional Meetings and looking ahead already to the 2022 Legislative Session and potential new staff positions. She also discussed VSP county certifications.

Roylene Comes at Night reported for NRCS on new direct hiring authority for 1,500 positions nationwide and about 21 for the state. She detailed some of the work required over the next two years and some of their target goals. She also spoke to Local Work Group and NRCS work on fire recovery.

Bill Blake reported for WADE on their upcoming virtual conference. He described some of the conference details and likely changes in future in-person conferences.

Doug Rushton reported for the Conservation Society on changes to their website and for NACD by referencing his written report.

### **Legislative Update**

Brynn Brady joined the call to discuss the last days of the legislative session. She spoke on the reconciliation between the three budgets and other outstanding items to be resolved. She answered questions about WACD's priority legislative goals, federal stimulus funds, and led a discussion on the final details on SB 5172.

### **Executive Director Report**

Tom Salzer spoke on Washington's appointments to NACD groups, some of the issues coming down the pipeline, and his concept of expanding outreach to new supervisors and managers as part of a WACD "welcome wagon".

### **Annual Conference Decision**

Ryan Baye updated the board on conversations with the Hotel Murano and how a delay in making a decision was possible for several months, should the board decide to wait.

### **DEI Facilitator Authorization**

Tom Salzer and Jeanette Dorner spoke to their meetings with prospective facilitators, to ensure WACD was able to successfully work together on the resolutions. They discussed likely timeline and their recommendation. Dean Longrie moved to authorize up to \$10,000 from the Supervisor Leadership Development. Second by Doug Rushton. Tom and Jeanette answered questions about the three proposals received, the information available to board members, and the need for a facilitator. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:32.