

## Washington Association of Conservation Districts

Remote Connection through Zoom

July 19, 2021

Summary of Board Actions

- **Motion:** Mark Craven moved to authorize the Executive Director to set the date of the December meeting after a poll of the full board. Second by Doug Rushton. Motion carried.

### Board of Directors July Meeting Minutes

#### 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 Preston, North Central Area Director (Grant County CD)  
Barbara Bailey, South Central Area Director (Underwood CD)  
Jeff Schibel, Northeast Area Director (Lincoln County CD)  
Mary Collins, Southeast Area Director (Palouse 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  
Alex Case-Cohen, Pend Oreille CD District Manager  
Dave Hedrick, Ferry CD District Manager  
Elsa Bowen, Lincoln County CD District Manager  
Larry Davis, WACD Tribal Relations Committee Co-Chair  
Daryl Williams, WACD Tribal Relations Committee Co-Chair  
Angie Reseland, WDFW Farm Bill Coordinator  
Tim Price, WACD Investment Manager

Meeting was called to order by President Dorner at 6:04, followed by introductions of those participating in the meeting. There was a special introduction of Angie Reseland, as the new Farm Bill Coordinator for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.

#### **NE Area Focus**

Three districts were present to share with board members some of the current challenges in the northeast part of Washington – finding staff, permitting issues, and having to work under older rules of other agencies. There was also discussion on the natural resource challenges and priorities of the five conservation districts a part of the Northeast Area Association.

### **WACD Investments Presentation**

Tim Price reported on the status of WACD's investments over the previous fiscal year, how prior WACD boards had made risk assessment decisions directing investment strategies, and the current composition of WACD's account. He answered questions about alternative structures, available liquidity in case of emergencies, and provided additional details on Edward Jones.

### **Partner Reports**

Carol Smith confirmed the announcement of her retirement in October from the State Conservation Commission. She detailed SCC interaction with congressional and federal agency staff, the Commission's state supplemental budget requests, and the draft strategic plan recently released for comment. She answered questions about a planned change in the Commission's response to complaints regarding individual district staff and supervisors.

Roylene Comes at Night spoke to recent hires and additional hiring allocation within Washington State's Natural Resources Conservation Service staff and the departure of two Area Conservationists. She also discussed plans to increase NRCS in-person staff presence in the coming months and potential changes to their policy on allowing staff to work remotely.

Larry Davis spoke for the Washington Conservation Society, and how WACD and WSC had signed a memorandum of understanding to formalize the Society's use of WACD's bookkeeper.

Doug Rushton shared details from the upcoming summer meeting for the National Association of Conservation Districts.

### **Tribal Relations Committee Report**

Daryl Williams and Larry Davis presented a series of recommendations from their committee for the WACD Board to potentially act on to improve tribal-CD partnerships. They answered questions and led a discussion about the interest from Washington's resident tribal entities for increased interactions, as opposed to solely focusing on the district perspective.

### **Special Committee Reports**

Tom Salzer updated the officers and directors present on the two WACD special committees – the Joint Committee on Elections with the Commission and the DEI Committee. He then presented and answered questions on a proposal from the Elections Committee being rolled out for initial comment by the conservation districts.

### **Moving December '21 Board Meeting Date**

Ryan Baye shared with the Board the need to consider a change to the December meeting date and incorporating the meeting into WACD's Annual Conference contract with the Hotel Murano. Alan Chapman moved to change December board meeting date to Monday, November 29<sup>th</sup> Second by Chris Porter. There was discussion on the downside of meeting that Monday and the option of selecting a date after polling all board members on their availability. Motion failed.

Mark Craven moved to authorize the Executive Director to set the date of the December meeting after polling the board. Second by Doug Rushton. Chris Porter moved to strike the requirement to poll the board. Second by Dave Fenn. The motion to amend failed. Original motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30.