

Washington Association of Conservation Districts

Remote Connection through Zoom

October 17, 2022

Work Session Meeting Minutes

Members Remotely Present

Mike Mumford, President (Pend Oreille CD)
Amy McKay, Vice President (Whitman CD)
Barbara Bailey, Secretary (Underwood CD)
Doug Rushton, National Director (Thurston CD)
Alan Chapman, Northwest Area Director (Whatcom CD)
Lisa Zaborac, Southwest Area Director (Grays Harbor CD)
Jerry Kolke, Southwest Area Director (Clark 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)
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
Chris Pettit, WSCC Executive Director
Larry Davis, Whatcom CD Associate Supervisor
Elsa Bowen, Lincoln County CD District Manager

President Mumford called the meeting to order at 6:00.

NE Area Focus

Elsa Bowen presented the current operations of Lincoln County CD: recent fires, being able to quickly respond to emergency project requests, and the interactions between the five NE area districts.

Public Comment Period

There were no public comments offered.

Financial Report

Tom Salzer discussed status of revenue and expenses, status of WACD investment account, and continuing the transfer of 50K a month as directed by the board. He answered a question about the progress of finding a new Farm Operations Manager.

Nursery Manager Report

Jim Brown informed the board regarding the one good candidate uncovered during their job search and the mostly tepid response otherwise. He reported sales are well ahead of schedule and lots of return labor force was available for this year's harvest. There were 209 orders worth over \$1.2 million in presales. He also discussed challenges faced by the PMC: increase in minimum wage and the increase in the cost of chemicals, there were also transmission problems with the work vehicle and it had to be towed home from harvesting seed cones in Whatcom county. He asked the board to consider a capital purchase for a truck at their November meeting.

Legislative Update

Brynn Brady joined the meeting to present on the upcoming elections and predicted the 2023 legislative session. She discussed the most competitive elections, potential committee assignment changes, and how legislators were planning to operate the 2023 session in Olympia. She also discussed upcoming legislative issues and answered questions about potential 2024 election candidates and the impact of the HEAL act on the transportation budget.

Partner Report

Chris Pettit reported on operations at the Conservation Commission and the number of new staff being hired. He reported on his thoughts from attending recent meetings and the potential state budget for the 23-25 biennium.

Cindy Pierce shared that the WADE 2023 conference dates and focus tracks were set. She also shared details of a potential price change and their initial search for conference speakers.

Larry Davis discussed the Washington Conservation Society's expansion of their "Leaving a Legacy" program to include living leaders.

Doug Rushton shared there were 20 scholarships for supervisors interested in attending the NACD Annual Conference for the first time. He and Larry Davis shared their impressions of the NACD Summer Meeting in Puerto Rico.

Work Plan Update

Tom Salzer updated the board on staff's progress regarding the 2023 work plan.

WACD Resolution Update

Ryan Baye shared his intention to create a complete update for all of WACD's active resolutions, hopefully in time for the Annual Meeting.

Area Meeting Report

Ryan Baye and Tom Salzer presented the outcomes from the Northwest and Southwest Area Meetings.

November Board Meeting Preview

Ryan Baye shared some of the initial items being prepared for the November Board meeting to hopefully streamline what is usually a packed meeting.

Announcements

Ryan Baye announced he had attended his first AgForestry seminar the previous week and shared how future seminars would impact his attendance at WACD events.

Meeting adjourned at 8:11.