



Washington Association of Conservation Districts

**Officers & Directors Meeting**  
Phoenix Room, Phoenix Inn & Suites  
Olympia, Washington  
February 22, 2012

### **MOTIONS**

#### Announcements

- John Keatley moved that the Officers and Directors accept his resignation effective with the close of business at this meeting. Chris Herron seconded. Motion carried.

#### Meeting Minutes

- The 11/18/2011 meeting minutes were reviewed. Chris Herron moved to approve. Larry Davis seconded. The minutes were approved as submitted.

#### Districts with Dues in Arrears

- Moved by John McLean and seconded by Nicole Berg that:
  - WACD will prepare letters to those districts outlining the benefits of membership and soliciting additional information on what may be preventing them from paying.
  - Once letter is prepared, David Guenther, along with Dave Vogel and an Area Director from the respective area, will schedule individual meetings to personally deliver the letters and encourage discussion. The motion carried.

#### Financial Report

- Albert Roberts moved to adopt the January 2012 financial report. John McLean seconded. Motion carried.

#### Farm Bill Push – Sending Wade Troutman to D. C. and/or Trying to Schedule In-District Visits

- John Keatley moved that WACD's Executive Committee make the decision on which course of action makes the most financial sense. Nicole Berg seconded. The motion carried.

#### Logo Design Contest

- Larry Davis moved that the O&D authorize reaching out to a larger pool of students for the contest beyond just the FFA and Ag-related students. Jerry Hendrickson seconded. The motion carried.

### Call to Order

President David Guenther called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m.

### Officers and Directors Present

David Guenther, President	Bill Knutsen, NW Area Director
Alan Stromberger, Vice President	Nicole Berg, SC Area Director
Albert Roberts, Secretary-Treasurer	Jerry Hendrickson, SE Area Director
Chris Herron, Past President	John Preston, NC Area Director
Wade Troutman, WACD National Director	Mary Sullivan, NE Area Director
Larry Davis, NW Area Director	John Keatley, SW Area Director
John McLean, NC Area Director	Mark Moore, SC Area Director
Larry Cochran, SE Area Director	Kathy Whalen, WADE President
David Hall, SW Area Director	

### Directors/Officers Unable to Attend

Eddie Johnson, NE Area Director, Lincoln CD

### Others in Attendance for All or Part of the Meeting

Fred Colvin, Chair, Washington State Conservation Commission  
Mark Clark, Executive Director, Washington State Conservation Commission  
Roylene Rides-at-the-Door, State Conservationist, NRCS (by conference call)  
Jim Jesernig, WACD Lobbyist (via conference call)  
Dean Longrie, Clark CD  
Lynn Brown, PMC Administrative Board  
Lee Hemmer, Foster Creek CD  
Monte Marti, Snohomish CD  
Raymond Brown, Pine Creek CD  
Mary Rosen, Pine Creek CD  
Carolyn Kelly, Skagit CD  
Lynn & Tanna Engdahl, Clark CD  
Dan Harwood, Palouse-Rock Lake CD  
Clinton O'Keefe, Palouse-Rock Lake CD

### Staff Present

Dave Vogel, WACD Executive Director  
Deb Gregory, WACD Administrative Coordinator

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### Call to Order

President David Guenther opened the meeting at 12:30 p.m. by welcoming all of the members and guests to Olympia. President Guenther encouraged the Area Directors, as they hear messages from our lobbyist, Jim Jesernig, to think about continuing to contact individuals back in their respective areas to encourage them to come to Olympia on Thursday for legislative days. With the many budget issues being discussed, it is a prime opportunity for our membership to lobby their elected officials.

### Announcements

John Keatley, SW Area Director for Cowlitz CD, announced that he was resigning his position on the Board as the SW Area Director. John moved that the Officers and Directors accept his resignation effective with the close of business at this meeting. Chris Herron seconded. Motion carried.

John advised that according to his area's bylaws, the Boards of the districts in the area who last hosted the area meeting (Wahkiakum 2011), and the next year's host (Clark CD 2012) make the decision on who will serve out a resigning member's term. Dean Longrie of Clark CD has indicated his desire and willingness to serve the remainder of John's term. Between John and Dean, they will work out the final details and will advise the O&D when a final decision has been made on John's replacement.

#### President's Report

Given WACD's on-going concerns about conservation district funding, President Guenther appointed a task force of past presidents to deal with the Supreme Court decision on the constitutionality of assessments, and put together a strategy for long-term funding solutions, with the intent of having something for discussion by the O&D during their November meeting. The task force is comprised of Paul Stoker, Wade Troutman, Dean Longrie, Chris Herron and Ron Juris. President Guenther is also participating with Executive Director Dave Vogel serving as a staff resource. If anyone has questions about the group or what it is working on, please contact Dave Vogel.

#### WACD Business

- The 11/18/2011 meeting minutes were reviewed. Chris Herron moved to approve. Larry Davis seconded. The minutes were approved as submitted.
- January 2012 financial report was reviewed. Albert Roberts noted that the biggest issue we face is how to increase income. He noted that there are four remaining districts that are in arrears on their dues payments. After some discussion, it was moved by John McLean and seconded by Nicole Berg that:
  - WACD will prepare letters to those districts outlining the benefits of membership and soliciting additional information on what may be preventing them for paying.
  - Once letter is prepared, David Guenther, along with Dave Vogel and an Area Director from the respective area will schedule individual meetings to personally deliver the letters and encourage discussion. The motion carried.
  - Albert moved to adopt the January 2012 financial report. John McLean seconded. Motion carried.
- Dave Vogel, Deb Gregory, Albert Roberts and Lori McLaughlin from the Bow office met by conference call to discuss the current budget and to start laying groundwork for preparation of the 2012-2013 WACD budget.
- Bylaws/policy discussion – reimbursement of Officer expenses at annual meetings. Dean Longrie from Clark CD encouraged the O&D to approve an amendment to the bylaws authorizing reimbursement of officer expenses for participating in the annual meetings. Dean noted that officers are elected and often put in a lot of extra time to attend these meetings. He recommended that someone make a motion for all officer expenses to be covered by WACD for the annual meetings. Wade Troutman is not certain this is something we can accomplish in the short-term and that perhaps this is a goal that should be included in our long-range strategic plan.

President Guenther suggested that Dean and other members who may be interested, start working with Dave Vogel to develop some recommendations for consideration at the May O&D meeting. Jerry Hendrickson volunteered to work on a short-term task force with Dean to assist Dave in developing a policy for discussion on this issue.

- Bylaws Committee Report – Albert and his committee are continuing to review the bylaws in conformance with the Policy and Procedure manual. Dave Vogel has been working on identifying areas of need and how it meshes with our bylaws. Mary Sullivan suggested the Bylaws Committee annually review the Bylaws each fall and make any recommended changes for consideration at the area meetings which will encourage more input among the membership. Any major changes would be brought before the full membership at the annual meetings.

Don Hatler from Clallam CD was serving on the Bylaws Committee with Albert and Mary, but has since resigned his position as Area Director. Staff will check with Don to see if he has a continuing interest in serving on the committee. Joe Shulke from Cowlitz was also suggested as a possible member.

- NACD Annual Meeting Report – WACD forwarded two resolutions to NACD for consideration at the annual meeting. 11-09, Keep Forest Logging Run-Off Classified as Non-Point under Clean Water Act made it through committee without issue. Craig Nelson from Okanogan CD spoke to the issue on the meeting floor where it was passed unanimously by the membership. 11-11, Urge EPA to Protect Farms and Businesses from Federal Dust Regulations. After review at the meeting, it was determined it needed some minor amendments. Carolyn Kelly from Skagit and Larry Davis, Area Director, helped Wade draft the needed amendments for presentation. This resolution passed as amended. Both resolutions are now part of NACD policy.
  - Wade reported that George Boggs from Whatcom CD did an excellent presentation on TMDLs. George also served on a TMDL Task Force along with Josh Monaghan from King CD. The NACD board of directors adopted the TMDL principles, but did not adopt the policy. The earliest the policy will be adopted is at the summer NACD meeting. President Guenther asked Karen Bishop, one of our two NACD scholarship recipients and first-time attendee to NACD to give a brief report on her experience. Karen felt that her attendance was very helpful, and was good to get a national perspective. On the positive side, she noted that Washington State is out in the lead on a lot of the national conservation issues. Karen really appreciated the opportunity to attend.
- Farm Bill congressional push –NACD would like states to make a congressional push with visits to Washington, D. C. on March 20. Wade is not able to meet with our entire congressional delegation in one day and believes it would be advantageous to have Area Directors or other interested and willing members meet with their respective congressman or woman when members return to the state for recess in March. This method may make more financial sense than flying Wade back to D. C. Larry Davis moved that WACD approve Wade’s expenses to travel to Washington, D. C. for an in-person push. The motion died for lack of a second. John Keatley moved that WACD’s Executive Committee make the decision on which course of action makes the most financial sense. Nicole Berg seconded. The motion carried. In the meantime, Wade will be contacting Mary Sullivan and others about scheduling individual meetings when members return home in March.
- NACD Pacific/SW Regional Meeting – Oregon was in line to host this year’s annual Pacific/SW Regional meeting, but declined for financial reasons until 2014. Wade has discussed the possibility of Washington State hosting it this year in Spokane with Dave Vogel. Dave has discussed what hosting would entail, costs, etc., with Mark Truax, Western Issues Specialist for NACD, and Dave’s counterpart in the state of Idaho, to look at co-hosting options. More conversations will continue. No final decisions have been made on whether to proceed.
- Financial commitment to Envirothon – John Larson had committed to the Envirothon Committee that WACD would provide them with up to \$10, 000 this year for their activities. Based on John’s

commitment, Dave has confirmed our intent in communication to Cindy Pierce, Envirothon Chair.

- Auction proceeds application process for 2013 – At the 11/28/11 O&D meeting, officers and directors moved to open up the process to other educational groups to apply for auction funds (in addition to Envirothon). Dave and Deb have developed an application process that would have the CDs send a letter to educational groups in their districts, inviting them to apply for funds at the beginning of each calendar, starting in 2013. Interested groups would complete their application and return it to the district. The district would then review and determine which applications to forward on to WACD with their recommendation. A review committee would be tasked with reviewing the applications and recommendations, and would determine the successful applicants with funds made available to them in the spring.

Monte Marti suggested a review of WACD resolutions from the past five to seven years where there was discussion on how auction funds were to be allocated before proceeding.

- PMC Report:
  - Jerry Hendrickson reported that the PMC is on the last stage of harvest and it's going well.
  - Expenses are within budget.
  - Sales to-date continues to surpass last year's.
  - PMC's accountant has recommended several changes to the Statement of Financial position. The new title of the report will be "Financial Position".
  - Jim Brown is assisting Dave Vogel with reviewing WACD's insurance needs and is currently awaiting quotes for wrongful act liability coverage.
- Logo Design Contest Discussion – Larry Davis has been working with Deb on some guidelines for the contest. At the 11/28/11 O&D meeting, the original motion was to open the competition to FFA and Ag-related students across the state. Larry is advocating opening the competition up to a larger pool of students than just from the agriculture community. Larry moved that the O&D authorize reaching out to a larger pool of students. Jerry Hendrickson seconded. The motion carried. Larry will work with Deb on who the invitation should be directed to with the goal of having the contest close by April 30 so judging can be wrapped up with a recommendation on the winner presented at the September O&D meeting.

#### WACD Strategic Plan/Policies/Committees

Dave Vogel has put together some recommended ideas on policies based on his review of the Bylaws, and has presented those to the Executive Committee (EC), along with his recommendations for WACD committees and next steps on the strategic plan. He has asked the E.C. to give him their priorities for working on these issues. Working with the E.C., Dave will prepare recommendations for review and approval by the full O&D, with the first set of the issues ready for review and approval at the May meeting.

#### Legislative Update – Jim Jesernig

Rates and Charges bill (HB 2567) – Our message to the Senate should be that we encourage their passage of the rates and charges bill when it reaches the Senate floor. In the House, we should encourage members to concur with the Senate's amendments and to pass it to the Governor's Office for signature.

As everyone is aware, we finally did get a Supreme Court decision on the assessment issue. The legal problem with the assessment statute has been the requirement to show a specific benefit received by each assessed parcel. The difference with the rates and charges bill is that you can show a general

benefit to the parcel. The benefit does not have to be in specific terms. It provides districts with a good alternative. It is not additive. The bill is currently in Senate Rules. Bill Knutsen from King CD complimented Jim Jesernig on all of the good work he's been doing on this bill. Jim has been working with both Pierce and King CDs every step of the way on this bill. Jim echoed Bill's comments and said this has become a great example of what we can accomplish when we all work together.

Operating and Capital Budgets – Jim Jesernig described the current status of both House Operating Budget and Capital Budget proposals, including the House proposal to eliminate the WSCC and conservation district funding. The Association of Counties has come out in support of continuing funding of the State Conservation Commission and in turn, CDs. Ron Shultz from WSCC suggested that districts might want to also contact their County Commissioners to elicit their advocacy for continuing financial support for CDs.

Cooperator Liability Legislation – There was a bill in Oregon that established some liability immunity for cooperating land owners. The Washington State Trial Lawyers Association is opposed to including any personal liability injury provisions. Jim participated in a work session on this. The group discussed issues in the Methow and elsewhere. Until the coalition of agencies are willing to take personal injury out of the bill, the State Trial Lawyers will not support it.

Wolf Bills – Bills authorizing regional delisting of the wolf did not make it out of committees. The Cattlemen's Association will take the lead on the listing/delisting issue and WACD will take the lead with the CDs on how to help both livestock and property owners that may be negatively impacted by the reintroduction of the wolf.

Wolf Task Force Report – In response to the WACD resolutions on delisting the wolf, President Guenther appointed a task force to work on this issue. Members of the task force include Gail Thornton of North Yakima, Lee Hemmer from Foster Creek, Chris Heitstuman from Palouse and Albert Roberts from Okanogan. Lee Hemmer from the group presented a status report on their work efforts to date. They have been working with both Jim Jesernig and Dave Vogel to develop a position paper. They last met on 2/7/12 by teleconference. The group is taking a two-prong approach. First is a position statement, and second is educational information outreach to all districts on the conservation ramifications of reintroducing the wolf in our state. Lee has also contacted NRCS who is developing a position paper on the issue as it relates to rotational grazing. WDFW has not addressed that aspect yet. The work is going well. They are trying to narrow it down to three or four points that relate to conservation practices and how the districts may be able to help landowners and producers.

#### Area Director Reports

##### *Larry Davis, NW Area:*

- The NW comprises a 10 county area. Larry has attended four board meetings to-date. He will be proposing some area bylaw amendments. The single biggest change will be a proposal to elect a stand-alone Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary-Treasurer. Larry will share these amendments with other areas.
- Has attended two State Technical Advisory Committee meetings in Spokane and Wenatchee.

##### *Bill Knutsen, NW Area:*

- NW area CD's to meet this evening to attempt to revitalize the Puget Sound Caucus to devise some ways to integrate with the Puget Sound Partnership. The goal is to create ways for the CDs to become the cornerstone of the partnership's efforts in implementation.

*David Hall, SW Area:*

- David recognized John Keatley as a SW Area Director. He has appreciated working with John. Is hoping for an opportunity to work with Dean Longrie if he is selected to replace John.
- Will be pursuing a review of those Districts who are in arrears on their dues once the letter is prepared. David will plan to attend the SW area meetings with Dave Vogel when scheduled.

*John Keatley, SW Area:*

- Busy preparing for next year's construction season.
- Have had legislative tours in both Wahkiakum and Cowlitz counties. Representative Brian Blake attended the Cowlitz tour. He's a strong advocate for conservation and we have maintained a strong relationship with him.

*Dean Longrie, Clark CD*

- Clark CD now has an Area Engineer.
- The saga continues in trying to get an assessment in Clark County. There is a meeting on Monday, 2/27/12 with the County Commissioners to try to move this forward.

*Nicole Berg, SC Area*

- Central Klickitat only CD in the area that did not opt-in to VSP.
- Our FireWise program is continuing.
- Will be doing an air quality tour on April 26 in Prosser.
- The local RC&D did not close its doors. Is one of the flagship RC&D's.
- Received a half million dollar grant from the BPA to assist producers with saving water and saving energy.

*Mark Moore, SC Area*

- Kittitas County has opted-in to VSP.
- Currently working on acquisitions so the pipeline projects can continue.

*John McLean, NC Area*

- Okanogan CD has a new staff member on board.
- Still working with the county to convince them they should opt into VSP for the critical areas ordinance for agriculture.
- Have put in 30+ fish streams in the Okanogan. Another 28 scheduled for this next year.
- Our educator has been to six schools, and has been helping with about eight to 10 public outreach opportunities for other organizations. Have had about 10 new clients as a result of that.
- Contacted South Douglas CD and sat down as two board members to attempt to help them. South Douglas is still regrouping.
- Pushing forward with FireWise.

*John Preston, NC Area*

- Adams CD has a new District Manager in Ritzville. District is now moving ahead.
- Working on a partnering agreement between Warden, Moses Lake and Grant.
- Big Bend RC&D is still in existence. Our coordinator is the one that put together the Save Water, Save Energy campaign. The RC&D will continue meet quarterly even though they lost their staff.

*Larry Cochran, SE Area*

- The Commission funding issue has the attention of Larry's four districts. They came to Olympia this week to help.
- Raymond Brown from Pine Creek has put together information on why their county's (Whitman) four districts should remain separate and distinct districts.
- The Cattlemen's Association has at least one representative that has been elected to Whitman County's supervisor positions in conservation districts.
- Direct seed systems have been very successful. We have several grants with DOE in Pine Creek. Just received an offer for one from Adams County.

*Jerry Hendrickson, SE Area*

- Jerry attended the annual meetings in Pomeroy, Columbia and Walla Walla CDs.
- Supporting Wheat Week
- BPA provided a grant for Snake-Blue Mountain RC&D.
- Snake River Salmon recovery is important.

*Mary Sullivan, NE Area*

- Mary reported that the Smithsonian's *Dig it!* Exhibit is officially on line at the MAC Museum in Spokane. Many people have attended the opening events. It will be on exhibit until 9/23/2012. As part of that exhibit, there will be a number of seminars and speakers. The educational aspect of conservation is bringing it to a level that wouldn't otherwise have provided exposure to the general public. Spokane offered to pay for any school that wanted to see the exhibit including providing transportation to and from. Those slots have been filled.
- Mark Clark from WSCC commented that the Commission is trying to get the Tacoma Museum of History interested in hosting the exhibit as well. If successful, it will provide opportunities for interested people on the west side of the state to see it, too.

Area Communications Distribution Lists

In response to a request from Nicole Berg, WACD staff looked into options for creating email distribution lists so that Area Directors can communicate directly with the Chairs in their local areas. We asked the Area Directors in both the SC and NW areas to road test the lists for us to see if they would work as was envisioned. The question was would the lists be beneficial to the Area Directors. After some discussion on the pros and cons of having these lists, it was agreed that we would move forward with their use. Staff will provide the email lists to each of the Area Directors for their use.

Conservation Partnership Reports

*NRCS - Roylene-Rides-at-the-Door, State Conservationist:*

- NRCS is currently in the middle of working on various deadlines to be able to get all of the funds that they have received obligated.
- In the middle of CSP.
- Overall, their budget is in a deficit state at this point. They have about a \$1M deficit but are not too concerned at the moment because they have several opportunities to get additional funds.
- NRCS had the most energy program applications in the country worth about \$14M. Kudos to Washington State! Roylene does not believe we will actually receive the full \$14M, but is worth noting that we received that many applications.

- Have a separate agreement for CRP which they are starting to get rolling. There is supposed to be a sign up for CRP on March 12 that will run for a 30 day period. Conservation plans will be developed following that.
- The cultural resources backlog in the east area is now down to 64 contracts. Roylene expects her staff to have those completed within the next several months.
- At WACD annual meeting, there was discussion about implementation strategies. NRCS is tracking those numbers. They had about 1200 contracts that needed implementation. They are now down to 290 contracts that are left to get back on schedule to either get them constructed or modified.
- NRCS is undergoing some reorganization with some offices closing. Soils Department is being reorganized with one office being closed. NRCS has recently taken some hard hits on their funding. She expects announcements soon for additional office closures. Currently working through issues relative to where to place displaced employees. They are also waiting on an announcement from the Secretary's Office about administrative restructuring and what that might mean.
- Chris Herron asked Roylene if any decisions on CRP payment limitations had been made. She has not heard anything yet and will follow up.
- Wade Troutman asked Roylene if she had a breakdown of conservation dollars by congressional district. Yes, and she will send that information to Wade.

*Mark Clark, WSCC:*

- Commission received some good news earlier this week about some additional state revenue dollars that will help legislators to make some timely budget decisions.
- Other areas of work at the Commission includes:
  - The Good Governance Committee (formerly Districts in Good Standing), is a subgroup of Commission members, staff and WACD. The group has reviewed the policy statement. The next meeting of the group is March 12. In addition to the policy statement, there is a process document that includes a timeline and what that would look like. The Commission will be reviewing the committee's work in March and will likely send it out to the districts for review and comment.
  - Budget development for 13-15 biennium. Information has been posted on the Commission's website ([www.scc@wa.gov](http://www.scc@wa.gov)). Mark would like district comments back not later than 3/2/2012. David Guenther asked districts to provide a copy of their comments to Dave Vogel at WACD ([dvogel@wadistricts.org](mailto:dvogel@wadistricts.org)). Mark noted that his staff is trying to adhere to a very strict timeframe for getting the budget developed.
- 3 Director Talks – Mark appreciates the effort that WACD has put into developing the new draft of the MOA. Mark recapped what some of the concerns have been about DOE's timeliness of inspections and used the Samish as an example. There is another meeting of the 3 Directors next week. What may slow down this process is changes in staffing at the state government agencies that may occur as a result of the 2012 election year. Mark reported that EPA and NRCS are engaged in these discussions.

*Kathy Whalen, WADE:*

- WADE annual meeting information was included in each of the O&D member meeting packets. This year's meeting is June 11-13, 2012 at the Sleeping Lady Conference Center in Leavenworth. Highlights:

- WADE committee did a survey of districts last year on what they liked and what they didn't like. As a result, the committee did make some changes this year. There are now nine tracks. An engineering track has been added and the tracks have been combined where session topics are relevant to audiences in more than one track.
- It was also decided to eliminate the WADE bucks and Wednesday WADE Bucks Auction. They will be used, however, at the casino night.
- A real auction has been added that will be used for scholarships to WADE next year. Early registration before May 4 is \$450. After that date, it increases to \$500.
- WACD, through the Conservation Commission, will be providing WADE with a \$10,000 scholarship fund again this year. Kathy extended appreciation to WACD and the Commission for providing those dollars.
- There will be a lot more hands-on activities this year.
- Have moved the partnership reports to the first day followed by a Q&A.
- The WADE Committee needs the support of the O&D to communicate to their members about the importance of attending the annual WADE meeting.
- WADE is also encouraging Districts to invite partners to attend.
- Registration and scholarship forms are available on the website at <http://wade.scc.wa.gov/wade-conference.html>

The next meeting of the Officers and Directors is May 8, 2012 at the Hal Holmes Center in Ellensburg.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Gregory  
WACD Administrative Coordinator