



Washington Association of Conservation Districts

Board of Directors Meeting
Teaway Room, Hal Holmes Center
Ellensburg, Washington
September 10, 2012

MOTIONS

Motion: *Larry Davis moved to approve the minutes as written. Dean Longrie seconded. Motion carried.*

Motion: Dean Longrie moved to approve the August 2012 financial report. Jerry Hendrickson seconded. Motion carried.

Motion: Larry Cochran moved to revise this section to allow the President to reappoint a PMC Board member to second five-year term. Larry Davis seconded. The motion carried.

Motion: Jerry Hendrickson moved to leave Article XIV as-is until the Executive Director can meet with the PMC Board to work out details and then bring it back to the Board of Directors for final discussion and approval. David Hall seconded. There were three in favor of the motion, and seven disapproved. The motion failed.

Motion: Dean Longrie moved that the recommended bylaws changes be moved to the fall area meetings for review and discussion. Chris Herron seconded. Motion carried.

Motion: David Hall moved to approve the PMC budget as submitted. Alan Stromberger seconded. Motion carried.

Motion: Chris Herron moved to approve the amended administrative operations budget. Nicole Berg seconded. Larry Davis said he would vote yes, but is still troubled that the Board is approving a deficit budget. Nicole agreed with Larry's concerns and wants to see the Board get to a balanced budget. Motion carried.

Motion: Wade Troutman moved that the draft strategic issue paper be distributed to supervisors and District Managers prior to the area meetings. Larry Davis seconded. The distribution process will be based on WACD's new communication process of asking the Area Directors to distribute the information to their area's supervisors. Mary Sullivan recommended that an explanation of what we are hoping to accomplish with the document be included with the distribution so supervisors and managers understand the purpose. The motion carried.

Motion: Larry Davis moved to include 5% and 15% increases in the dues options paper and distribute this with strategic issue paper. Nicole Berg seconded. Motion carried.

Motion: Larry Cochran moved to keep the annual meeting registration fee at the 2011 level. Dean Longrie seconded. Motion carried.

Motion: Larry Davis moved that the 3 Director Talks draft letter, as written, be sent to the proper legislative committee chairs for signature and action. Alan Stromberger seconded. Motion carried.

Motion: Alan Stromberger moved that the Elected Commission Members Policy #2012-003 be adopted. Jerry Hendrickson seconded. Motion carried.

Motion: Larry Davis moved to approve the Area Directors Roles and Responsibility Policy #2012-xxx. Alan Stromberger seconded. Motion carried.

Motion: Chris Herron moved to approve the WACD Committees and Committee Operating Procedures Policy #2012-xxx. Larry Davis seconded. Motion carried.

Motion: Larry Davis moved to approve the Resolutions Policy #2012-xxx. John Preston seconded. Motion carried.

Motion: Alan Stromberger moved to adopt the Board of Directors Travel Reimbursement Eligibility Policy #2012-xxx. John Preston seconded. Motion carried.

Motion: Alan Stromberger moved that the Board take no action on Educational Assistance Grants Policy #2012-xxx as written. Wade Troutman seconded. Motion carried.

Motion: Dean Longrie moved to approve appointing John Keatley to chair the Natural Resources Policy Committee. Mark Moore seconded. Motion carried.

Board of Directors Present

David Guenther, President

Alan Stromberger, Vice President

Chris Herron, Past President

Albert Roberts, Secretary-Treasurer

Wade Troutman, National Director

Larry Davis, NW Area Director

David Hall, SW Area Director

Dean Longrie, SW Area Director

John Preston, NC Area Director

Mark Moore, SC Area Director

Nicole Berg, SC Area Director

Mary Sullivan, NE Area Director

Jerry Hendrickson, SE Area Director

Larry Cochran, SE Area Director

Kathy Whalen, WADE President

Board Members Absent

Bill Knutsen, NW Area Director

John McLean, NC Area Director

Eddie Johnson, NE Area Director

Others in Attendance for All or Part of the Meeting

Fred Colvin, Chair, Washington State Conservation Commission

Ron Shultz, Director of Policy & Intergov. Relations, Washington State Conservation Commission

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

Jim Jesernig, WACD Lobbyist

Brad Jesernig, Lobbyist

Kelly Niemi, PMC Administrative Board

Michael Crowder, Benton CD

Staff Present

Dave Vogel, Executive Director

Deb Gregory, Administrative Coordinator

Jim Brown, Manager, PMC

Lori McLaughlin, Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper, PMC

Call to Order

President David Guenther called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. by welcoming members and guests to the meeting.

5/18/2012 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Motion: Larry Davis moved to approve the minutes as written. Dean Longrie seconded. Motion carried.

August 2012 Financial Report

Motion: Dean Longrie moved to approve the August 2012 financial report. Jerry Hendrickson seconded. Motion carried.

Bylaws Committee Report

Albert Roberts, Chair of the Bylaws Committee, and Dave Vogel presented proposed changes to the bylaws for discussion. The intent, if approved by the Board, is to move the proposed changes on to the fall area meetings for further review and discussion, and then presentation to the full membership at the annual meeting in November. Dave Vogel explained how the committee started the process and then provided a summary of the proposed changes.

Bylaws, Article IV, Section 2

Add language to the section that states the Secretary-Treasurer's term shall be limited to two 2-year consecutive terms.

Bylaws, Article XIV, Section 2

A number of Board members believe this section should be revised to allow the President to reappoint a PMC Board member to a second five-year term.

Motion: Larry Cochran moved to revise this section to allow the President to reappoint a PMC Board member to second five-year term. Larry Davis seconded. The motion carried.

There was substantial discussion among the Board about the proposed changes to this article.

Motion: Jerry Hendrickson moved to leave Article XIV as-is until the Executive Director can meet with the PMC Board to work out details and then bring it back to the Board of Directors for final discussion and approval. David Hall seconded. There were three in favor of the motion, and seven disapproved. The motion failed.

David Guenther requested that PMC Board members review the proposed changes to Article XIV and provide their comments to Dave Vogel as soon as possible so any concerns they have can be addressed in a timely manner.

Motion: Dean Longrie moved that the recommended bylaws changes be moved to the fall area meetings for review and discussion. Chris Herron seconded. Motion carried.

PMC Budget

Jim Brown, PMC Manager, presented the proposed PMC budget to the Board. He noted that sales are strong with projected revenues of \$875,175. Chris Herron asked Jim what other avenues for revenue are being pursued beyond tree seedlings. Jim noted that they have been looking into grass seeds. Chris asked if there was consideration being given to producing or purchasing enough seeds so that they could be available to CDs in the dryland areas of the state as it could provide an additional revenue stream to the PMC. Jim noted that they are reviewing this idea.

The PMC Board also agreed to increase the amount of land rent that is provided to WACD for administrative operations. The Board is proposing increasing the amount from \$40,000 per year to \$55,000 per year.

Motion: David Hall moved to approve the PMC budget as submitted. Alan Stromberger seconded. Motion carried.

WACD Budget Amendment

The Board previously approved the WACD administrative operations budget at the 5/8/2012 meeting. With the approval of the PMC budget today and the increase in land rent payment from \$40,000 to \$55,000, it necessitates an amendment to the administrative budget to reflect this increase.

Motion: Chris Herron moved to approve the amended administrative operations budget. Nicole Berg seconded. Larry Davis said he would vote yes, but is still troubled that the Board is approving a deficit budget. Nicole agreed with Larry's concerns and wants to see the Board get to a balanced budget. Motion carried.

WACD strategic issue paper

Based on Board discussions at the 5/8/2012 meeting regarding the need to increase revenue for WACD and exploring options to do so, Dave Vogel prepared a strategic issue paper outlining the background of how WACD has grown in both staff capacity and capability and in the services it now provides to its members, along with a discussion of existing revenue sources and uses and some new revenue options.

Chris commented on the importance of this paper and encouraged the Board to spend some time reviewing the document. Larry Davis recommended that the draft document be provided to the districts for the area meetings as one of the revenue options that includes consideration of a dues increase for the districts. It is essential that districts have an opportunity to review this strategic paper prior to the annual meeting.

Motion: Wade Troutman moved that the draft strategic issue paper be distributed to supervisors and District Managers prior to the area meetings. Larry Davis seconded. The distribution process will be based on WACD's new communication process of asking the Area Directors to distribute the information to their area's supervisors. Mary Sullivan recommended that an explanation of what we are hoping to accomplish with the document be included with the distribution so supervisors and managers understand the purpose. The motion carried.

District Dues Options

The draft district dues options paper includes a 10% and a 20% dues increase proposal. Larry Davis requested that two additional options be added to include a 5% and a 15% increase. Nicole commented that there may be some benefit to surveying the districts to find out what services they want from WACD and/or what they do or don't feel they're getting. She noted there is confusion among many of the supervisors on what the distinction between WACD and the Conservation Commission is. A survey might help to clarify roles and responsibilities. Ron Shultz from the Conservation Commission agreed that this has been a long-standing issue and is a topic that should be further explored in a separate meeting.

Motion: Larry Davis moved to include 5% and 15% increases in the dues options paper and that the dues option be distributed with the strategic issue paper (above). Nicole Berg seconded. Motion carried.

2012 Annual Meeting Registration Fee Increase

The registration fee for the annual meeting has not been increased since 2008. To help increase revenues, it has been recommended that the Board consider increasing the registration fee by either \$25 or \$50 per registration. Dean Longrie expressed some concern in that our goal is to increase attendance by more supervisors but that a higher fee may deter some districts from sending their supervisors due to tight budgets.

Motion: Larry Cochran moved to keep the registration fee at the 2011 level. Dean Longrie seconded. Motion carried.

Legislative Update

Jim Jesernig provided an update on some of the key issues for the 2013 legislative session.

- Liability reform – This one relates to landowner immunity from liability associated with conservation practices. The main opposition to any potential bill will come from the Washington State Trial Lawyers Association (WSTLA). In previous conversations with the Executive Director of WSTLA, he stated to Jim that if there is anything in that bill having to do with personal injury, WSTLA will oppose it. Second, it would be helpful if we can identify where districts had dealt with a landowner who was reluctant to work on restoration issues because of liability concerns. So far, we have been unable to locate any district where landowners have declined to participate due to liability concerns.
- Election issue – Jim and Dave Vogel met with Representative Dean Takko, who is Chair of the House Local Government Committee to discuss any concerns he has with the district elections process. Of importance to Representative Takko is that the districts work harder to get a higher turnout. One of the other ideas that had been recommended was getting the elections added to the general elections ballot, but due to budget concerns, this has become a non-option. The focus will continue to be on increased turnout. WACD will need to be prepared to respond to action on the election issue.
- Junior taxing districts – The Junior Taxing Districts, Municipal Corps & Local Government Finance Joint Select Committee was formed to review municipal corporations and junior taxing districts. The whole focus has been on taking all of the special purpose districts (which includes CDs) and rolling them into county government. While this may not be a primary focus in the 2013 legislative session, we do need to be attuned to it.
- WSCC budget proposal – Jim expressed concern with the size of the proposed budget the Commission has submitted to OFM. It represents a 200% increase over past submittals. It may send the wrong signal to legislators. Something that bears watching. WACD will need to plan how to support the budget request following release of the Governor's budget.
- Three Director Talks – There have been no communications to WACD from the directors involved in the talks. WACD remains concerned that without any ability to provide input on ideas they are working on, we may be presented with a single prong approach (regulatory only) rather than our desired two-prong approach which includes incentive based and regulatory. WACD Leadership has prepared a draft letter in conjunction with Jim to send to the Chairs of the Senate and House Ag Committees for signature. The letter would be to the three directors inviting them to participate in a joint House/Select committee work session to describe what they are intending to recommend or implement in their agencies. Jim requested approval by the Board to send the letter to the Committee Chairs for signature and action. Larry Cochran asked to see a copy of the draft letter first. Board members were provided a copy to review.

Motion: Larry Davis moved that the 3 Director Talks draft letter, as written, be sent to the proper legislative Committee Chairs for signature and action. Alan Stromberger seconded. Motion carried.

Elected Commission Members Policy #2012-003

This proposed policy was discussed at the 5/8/2012 Board meeting. It was not approved at that time. Fred Colvin, WSCC Chair had a number of comments that have been incorporated into this new draft.

Motion: Alan Stromberger moved that the Elected Commission Members Policy #2012-003 be adopted. Jerry Hendrickson seconded. Motion carried.

Area Directors Roles and Responsibilities Policy #2012-xxx

The proposed policy establishes an outline that will serve as guidance to Area Directors in fulfilling their responsibilities as leaders, communicators and decision-makers.

Motion: Larry Davis moved to approve the Area Directors Roles and Responsibility Policy #2012-xxx. Alan Stromberger seconded. Motion carried.

WACD Committees and Committee Operating Procedures Policy #2012-xxx

The purpose of this proposed policy is to establish WACD committees that shall serve as standing, permanent committees and to establish committee operating procedures. This policy was reviewed in a draft (non-policy) form at the 5/8/12 Board meeting.

Motion: Chris Herron moved to approve the WACD Committees and Committee Operating Procedures Policy #2012-xxx. Larry Davis seconded. Motion carried.

Resolutions Policy #2012-xxx

This policy establishes a basis for and response to the adoption of resolutions by the membership, and includes actions necessary to track and report on progress with approved resolutions.

Motion: Larry Davis moved to approve the Resolutions Policy #2012-xxx. John Preston seconded. Motion carried.

Board of Directors Travel Reimbursement Eligibility Policy #2012-xxx

The purpose of this policy is to serve as guidance to directors and Association staff in planning and allocating available funds for travel reimbursement to fulfill the entitlement for director reimbursement based on available funds, and includes a provision for making decisions on reimbursement amounts where insufficient funds exist.

Motion: Alan Stromberger moved to adopt the Board of Directors Travel Reimbursement Eligibility Policy #2012-xxx. John Preston seconded. Motion carried.

Mary Sullivan recommended that this policy be provided to any potential Area Director candidates so they have a full understanding of WACD's reimbursement policies as it may impact their decision on whether to run for a position or not. Mary's recommendation is noted and a copy will be provided to all future potential candidates.

Educational Assistance Grants Policy #2012-xxx

The purpose of this policy is to make annual meeting auction funds available to other conservation groups in support of conservation education activities beyond the Envirothon as requested by the Board at their 11/28/2011 meeting. The proposed policy was provided to District Managers for their review and comment. Of the comments received, districts are interested in maintaining the current practice of providing all auction proceeds to the Envirothon Committee in support of their activities. Commenters believe that if changes are made to who receives auction proceeds, the auction may ultimately lose steam.

Motion: Alan Stromberger moved that the Board take no action on Educational Assistance Grants Policy #2012-xxx as written. Wade Troutman seconded. Motion carried.

Note: All policies approved will be assigned a sequential policy number in the order they were approved.

Committee Chairs

David Guenther advised the Board that John Keatley of Cowlitz CD has offered to chair the Natural Resources Policy Committee for a term of at least one-year.

Motion: Dean Longrie moved to approve appointing John Keatley to chair the Natural Resources Policy Committee. Mark Moore seconded. Motion carried.

Conservation Partnership Reports

Conservation Commission: Ron Shultz

Ron noted the Commission meeting in September will be held in Chelan. Some of the issues for discussion include:

- Two Commission policies. One policy deals with district consolidations and the other with district audit policies. Ron advised that any proposed policy changes that affect the districts will be provided to them. They will have a total of six weeks in which to review the policy with their boards and provide comments.
- Two presentations are scheduled. One from EPA on the results of the Yakima groundwater study and from USDA on the results of the dairy study in Yakima.

The Commission has established three task forces: Communications, Allocations and Agency Coordination to Maximize Efficiencies (ACME). Area Directors are encouraged to participate or find someone who might be interested.

NRCS: Roylene Rides at the Door

- NRCS submitted their state Field Office of the Future Plan on 9/6/2012.
- Lease Space – NRCS developed multiple agreements with WDFW documenting assistance to NRCS programs well in excess of the value of space provided. District Conservationists report that several districts are considering acquiring separate leases in existing sites. That option is at the top of the preferred methods of addressing this issue.
- Nutrient management subcommittee – The subcommittee has been meeting since April in hopes of posting the 590 Standard in October so NRCS planners could use it. NRCS has requested specific input from the state Department of Ecology about the 590 standard, but Ecology has failed to respond to NRCS requests. If Washington State NRCS cannot complete work on a state-specific standard, the national headquarters may dictate a phosphorus index to be included in the standard for implementation in

January 2013. A poll was taken and it was decided to continue meeting as a subcommittee to discuss other things with the 590 Nutrient Management Conservation Practice implementation.

- STAC Riparian Buffers Technical Subcommittee – NRCS is currently working a scope of work for a facilitator. The proposal includes meetings in Ellensburg (twice monthly) in November, January, February, and March and once in October and December. NRCS is hoping to have a draft product in February and final in March.

WADE: Kathy Whalen

- The WADE Committee is currently working on training for next year's meeting. The dates are June 17-19, 2013 at Sleeping Lady in Leavenworth.
- There will be nine different tracks. The Supervisor track will be made a permanent part of the training offered.
- The theme will be "Conservation from the Ground Up".
- Partnership reports will be done at the beginning of the meeting and then there will be two to three break-out sessions running concurrently. Those will include social media, new technologies, and safety in the field.
- Kathy has forwarded WADE member participation recommendations for each of the three new Commission task forces.

Area Director Reports

Southeast – Larry Cochran:

Larry discussed on-going controversy involving area cattlemen, Ecology and local conservation districts regarding Hangman Creek and Palouse watersheds and water quality issues. There may be a role for WACD to play in helping to resolve these issues, working with local districts, Jack Field from the Washington Cattleman's Association and the Department of Ecology.

Northeast – No report

South Central – Nicole Berg & Mark Moore

- Mark Moore reported that Benton CD received approval from the county for their assessment; South Yakima WACD dues have been paid in full.
- Nicole reported that she received no response from area supervisors or chairs to her emails as Area Director.

North Central – John Preston

John reported on progress with the consolidation of Moses Lake, Grant and Warden CDs; scheduled for action at the September Commission meeting in Chelan. John reported that Adams CD has paid their WACD dues.

Northwest – Larry Davis

Larry was unable to remain at the meeting beyond the scheduled adjournment. No report.

Southwest – Dean Longrie

- Dean reported on visits to local CD Boards with WACD Executive Director Dave Vogel.
- Dean pointed out the need for assistance with state cultural resource determinations and COE permits.
- Dean reported no response from CD chairs to his requests for area director items.

The next meeting of the Board will occur at the annual meeting on Monday, November 26, 2012 beginning at noon until 3:00 p.m.

Board members, please bring your 2013 calendars with you to the November meeting. We will be scheduling 2013 meeting dates.

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Gregory
Administrative Coordinator
Washington Association of Conservation Districts