



WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Tribal Outreach Task Force Conference Call Meeting Notes
November 1, 2013
10:00 a.m.

Present:

Tanna Engdahl, Chair, Clark Conservation District
Lynn Engdahl, Clark Conservation District
Mark Clark, Washington State Conservation Commission
Roylene Rides at the Door, NRCS
Robin Slate, NRCS
Jackie Richter, Colville Reservation Conservation District Manager
Mike Stamon, Quinault Indian Nation
Larry Davis, Whatcom CD
Monte Marti, Snohomish CD
Kathy Whalen, Thurston CD and WADE President
Dave Vogel, WACD Executive Director
Deb Gregory, WACD Administrative Coordinator

Chair Tanna Engdahl opened the meeting at 10:05 a.m.

Tanna requested that a thank you note be sent to Albert Roberts from Okanogan CD for his interim chairmanship of the task force. Tanna believes it is notable that he would lend his name to the task force for the start-up process.

Action: Dave Vogel will send a note to Albert on behalf of the task force.

Tanna gave thanks to everyone who responded to the “we need help” request. As a result, the task force has been able to narrow the issues down to begin some strategic actions.

Tanna recommended to the task force that David Guenther be a permanent member of the task force. She would like to see David’s membership continue even when he’s no longer President of WACD. All task force members present on the call agreed with Tanna’s recommendation.

Action: Dave Vogel noted Tanna’s request. This item will be added to the new President’s “to do” list.

Agenda update, invitees – Tanna has confirmed that Stanley Speaks, Regional Director for the Bureau of Indian Affairs will be a speaker at the General Session II on tribal partnerships. Dave Vogel noted that he has received a message from Earl Garber, NACD President, that he is planning to attend the annual meeting again this year. Dave is hopeful that with Earl’s attendance for a second year in a row that this may be an indication that Jason Weller, NRCS Chief is planning to attend also. Roylene Rides at the Door is still trying to confirm this.

For the Tribal Partnerships “How To” concurrent session, Cindy Spiry from the Snoqualmie Tribe will be discussing some of her watershed projects and partnerships. The King Conservation District is assisting Cindy with putting together her presentation. Craig Nelson is

working with Jackie Richter and others on putting together a presentation encompassing the Okanogan area partnership projects. Jim Jesernig, WACD legislative consultant, is in discussions with Craig Bill of the Governor's Office on his attendance at the meeting. Some additional reinforcement from the TOTF might also be worthwhile to do. Mark Clark from the Conservation Commission will follow up with Mr. Bill to encourage his attendance as he's had several discussions with him in recent days.

Larry Davis is familiar with the Governor's Chief of Staff through past work associations and said he would contact her to urge Mr. Bill's attendance.

Action: Dave Vogel will follow up with Mark Clark to determine next steps possibly involving Larry Davis.

Robin Slate noted that NRCS has also sent letters to Messrs. Weller, Garber and Speaks inviting them to attend the WATCAC meeting and participate on a panel in conjunction with the annual meeting.

Running concurrently with the Tribal Partnerships "How To" session will be sessions on local working groups evaluation, county/conservation district partnerships and a session on Whatcom County liability and risk assessment as a result of a recent court action.

Dave Vogel asked Tanna, Jackie and Robin what opportunities there might be for members and officers to participate in WATCAC activities should WACD's Business Meeting conclude early on Wednesday. Robin said there would be a VIP panel on Wednesday from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. that Messrs. Weller, Speaks and Garber have been invited to participate on. In addition, there is a 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. session on tribal local working groups discussing the work they've done this past year. Robin has also invited the tribal members to participate in WACD's wine reception Wednesday evening.

NRCS is looking at sponsoring a group of tribal members to attend the banquet. The Thursday meeting of WATCAC will adjourn by 2:00 p.m. to ensure NRCS stays within its budget allotment for tribal sponsorships. Dave Vogel suggested that if NRCS runs into a budget problem, he may be able to talk to Earl Garber at NACD to see about some scholarship money to help NRCS defray some of the tribal member expenses similar to what was done last year.

Robin suggested that if WACD officers and members are interested in attending some of the WATCAC sessions, the two most beneficial would be the Wednesday sessions from 2:00 to 3:00 and 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. She will discuss WACD attendance at these sessions when she talks with tribal members on a conference call November 12 to ensure there are no sensitivities to having WACD attend any advisory committee meetings. She will advise the outcome of that discussion at the next conference call of the TOTF.

Name tags for TOTF members – Tanna suggested having name tags done for the TOTF members that will readily identify them as members of the task force.

Action: WACD will do some special delineation on task force member name tags.

WACD needs to have some understanding of proper protocols for introducing tribal members. Robin and Jackie are putting together a list of tribal members attending the annual meeting. Once that list is available, it will be shared with all task force members who can help with putting

tribal members together with their respective conservation districts and making proper introductions. Copies of the list will also be made available at the registration desk.

Every effort will be made to seat TOTF members dispersed throughout the luncheons and the closing banquet so there is as much interaction among tribes and members as possible. The goal is to make this as comfortable for everyone and the effects as lasting as possible.

Quick meeting of the TOTF at the annual meeting – Jackie will find a small meeting space at Suncadia for the task force members to meet briefly just prior to the opening ceremonies on Tuesday, December 3. Any updates to tribal member attendance list can be provided at that time. Another debrief will be held somewhere near the close of the annual meeting for task force members to discuss their assessments on the meeting.

Action: Jackie Richter will secure a small meeting space at Suncadia for the task force members to meet briefly prior to the opening ceremonies.

Tanna has developed a list of what she believes are some long-term goals of the task force and asked the task force members for their thoughts on these and whether they had others to add. Some of her noted goals are:

- Start working toward becoming a WACD standing committee.
- Become part of WACD's framework. The task force does that by a careful collection of what we're doing, such as archiving meeting notes. Have a photographic history and documentation.
- List of successes and failures.
- As part of the 2014 annual meeting, have time on the agenda for the task force.
- Have a page on WACD's website.
- Task force to stay in tune with WACD's development of an education program for supervisors and staff.
- Have a joint WACD/NRCS effort to provide training to new supervisors, supervisors, and staff for both the tribes and WACD. Would especially like to see a component of this established by the Commission on their first supervisor training.
- Do field trips or presentations to showcase watershed projects. Invite tribes and CD's to see what people did to pull these projects off.
- Include some narrative about tribal partnerships in the Commission's Annual Report to the districts. Mark Clark welcomed this idea and made note for next year's report.

Tanna mentioned the tribal resource assessment document that NRCS put together and how it is the best document of its kind that she's seen in her 30 year career. She would like to see this document showcased at the annual meeting. Robin will have copies of the document available for task force members at the annual meeting. In addition, the document will be highlighted during the WATCAC meeting.

Dave asked if there was a task force member who would be willing to assist with working on protocols for introductions and how we work on mixing up tribal members and WACD members and partners during lunches and the dinner. Tanna appointed Lynn Engdahl to lead this effort. Robin and Jackie will assist. Task Force noted the need to acknowledge at the annual meeting everyone who took part in this important outreach and partnership effort.

Tanna suggested some definitive recognition for Messrs. Weller, Garber and Speaks for taking the time to attend the meeting and help with kicking off our tribal partnership efforts.

Action: Dave Vogel will work with Tanna on an appropriate recognition.

The next meeting of the task force is Monday, November 25, 2013 at 10:00 a.m.

There being no further business to discuss, and for the good of the order, Tanna concluded the meeting at 11:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Gregory
WACD Administrative Coordinator