



Washington Association of Conservation Districts

Board of Directors Meeting

January 27, 2014

Capitol Room, Olympia Red Lion Hotel

MOTIONS

- **Motion: Dean Longrie moved to approve the 12/2/2013 meeting minutes. Jerry Hendrickson seconded. The motion carried.**
- **Motion: David Guenther moved that the Board accept the December 2013 financial report and Wendy's recommendations moving forward. David Hall seconded. Motion carried.**
- **Motion: Wendy Pare moved that a solicitation memo to the districts be prepared for Alan Stromberger's signature within the next two weeks outlining WACD's goal and purpose in fundraising and asking for supervisor interest in participating on the fundraising team. The goal is to have names of team members not later than February 17. David Guenther seconded. Motion carried.**

Board of Directors Present

Alan Stromberger, President
Mark Craven, Vice President
David Guenther, Past President
Michael Crowder, National Director
Wendy Pare, Secretary Treasurer
Don Hatler, NW Area Director
Dean Longrie, SW Area Director

David Hall, SW Area Director
John Preston, NC Area Director
John McLean, NC Area Director
Mark Moore, SC Area Director
Tom Miller, NE Area Director
Jerry Hendrickson, SE Area Director
Kathy Whalen, WADE President

Board Members Not Present

Bill Knutsen, NW Area Director
Eddie Johnson, NE Area Director
Larry Cochran, SE Area Director

Others in Attendance for All or Part of the Meeting

Jim Jesernig, Coyne Jesernig
Brad Jesernig, Coyne Jesernig
Jennifer Boie, Palouse CD
Tanna Engdahl, Clark CD
Lynn Engdahl, Clark CD

Mark Clark, WSCC
Roylene Rides at the Door, NRCS
Debbie Becker, WSCC
Lee Hall, Ferry County CD

Staff Present

Dave Vogel, Executive Director

Deb Gregory, Administrative Coordinator

Lori McLaughlin, Bookkeeper/Administrative Assistant

President Alan Stromberger opened the meeting at 1:00 p.m. The President welcomed Don Hatler from Clallam CD as the new NW Area Director, replacing Larry Davis. There was a review of the agenda and one new item was added relative to a Whitman CD payment issue.

WACD Business

- 12/2/2013 DRAFT minutes – **Motion:** Dean Longrie moved to approve the 12/2/2013 meeting minutes. Jerry Hendrickson seconded. The motion carried.

- December 2013 Financial Report –
 - Wendy Pare noted that WACD was short \$3,000 on their sponsorship goal for the year.
 - Fundraising – WACD has not been successful in bringing in any funds to date. Dave Vogel is currently in the process of assisting the Board of Directors in forming a fundraising committee.
 - There was a line item in the amount of \$20,000 for an NRCS contract for the year which WACD does not yet have in place.
 - The Commission contract is at OFM for final review. No negative issues have arisen and it is anticipated that WACD will have a contract with the Commission through June 30, 2014 soon. In the meantime, the Commission has agreed to pay the 35% included in that contract for the annual meeting through the Thurston Conservation District. Those funds should be available to WACD within 7 to 10 days. Dave Vogel will begin working with the Commission Office on a one-year amendment for the period of July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015 within the next month to get that process started.

On the expense side, Wendy noted that there are some challenges with expenses for the Board, the National Director, the Executive Director and legislative consultant categories. Wendy has asked WACD staff to do a projection of expenses remaining through the remainder of this fiscal year. Dave V. will work with Lori McLaughlin on that following Legislative Days to include expenses for this event.

Wendy recommended that:

1. WACD do a revised budget for this fiscal year.
2. Work on an accountability structure to ensure WACD stays within budget limits
3. Look at other revenue streams to see if we can do something immediately to fill the budget gap.

Motion: David Guenther moved that the Board accept the December 2013 financial report and Wendy's recommendations moving forward. David Hall seconded.

Further discussion: Don Hatler requested that the Board see the budget in a fiscal year to date format. Wendy is working with Dave V. and Lori McLaughlin on some reporting changes that will include presenting it in a fiscal year to date format.

Wendy is also recommending that the PMC develop a five-year strategic plan. That will be discussed at the PMC's April administrative committee meeting. Dave V. will be attendance at that session.

Dave V. reminded the Board where they were on the budget one year ago. At that time, the budget included some blank areas that have now been replaced with line items for fundraising and sponsorships. It is the Board's job to look at the bottom line and determine where to take monies necessary to balance the budget.

The motion carried.

- Board of Directors 2014 Annual Conflict of Interest Certification – The Board members have each reviewed WACD's Policy #2012-010, Conflict of Interest Policy and Procedure, and the annual certification form was passed around the room for their signatures. Those members absent will be asked to sign the policy at the June 16 meeting in Leavenworth.
- Whitman CD payment of annual meeting registration fee – The Whitman CD had inquired before the annual meeting if someone only attended one day of the meeting, was there a reduced registration fee for that? WACD does not have a one day or partial registration fee and that anyone attending is required to pay the full registration fee. That information was communicated back to Whitman. Their Board apparently discussed this and decided to send WACD a one-third payment representing what they believe is a one-day fee for their member who attended. Dave V. asked how the Board would like to address this issue since we have not encountered this issue in the past and do not want to set a precedent for this in the future.

Action: Dave V. will contact the Whitman CD Board Chairman, Walter Riley, to discuss this with him directly and try to resolve it that way.

Information & Discussion

- Legislative Days Overview – Jim Jesernig, WACD legislative consultant, gave an overview of what members can expect to hear when they meet with their elected representatives. WACD's message is two-fold:
 - It is important for the state and future generations that our natural resources be protected.
 - Focus on the livestock issue. Discuss how it is impacting you on being able to provide the technical assistance livestock owners need.
- Resolutions Update – After the conclusion of the annual meeting and in early January, Dave V. sent WACD's resolutions to Mark Clark at the Conservation Commission, Maia Bellon at the Department of Ecology, Roylene Rides at the Door at NRCS, Peter Goldmark at the Department of Natural Resources, Kathy Whalen of WADE and Bud Hover at the Department of Agriculture requesting their help in implementing the resolutions.

During legislative days, WACD leadership has meetings with Directors of the Department of Ecology, DNR and the Department of Agriculture where this topic will be

touched on. There was an additional resolution passed dealing with how NACD communicates the status of resolutions passed at its annual meetings. We have transmitted that resolution to NACD and it will be on their agenda for action at the meeting in Anaheim February 1-5, 2014.

There were eight resolutions that passed dealing with fundamental changes in how the budget for CDs is prepared and submitted and for how the allocation process works. Dave V. thanked Mark Clark for putting resolutions on the January Commission meeting agenda so the Commission could hear those resolutions and give WSCC staff the go-ahead to proceed in that direction and to work with WACD and others as necessary to implement them. Dave V. noted Mark's hard work with his Commissioners to get these passed at the January meeting, because a number of Commissioners did not seem to appreciate the need to reform the budget process, or to consult with WACD on the steps needed to implement the intent of WACD member conservation districts.

- Fundraising team or task force – At the December 2013 Board meeting, members agreed to proceed with a fundraising team or task force that would be responsible for calling people and/or attending meetings with potential donors to describe what we do and why. The team will also include people who can make the ask. Wendy Pare, as Secretary Treasurer, Chris Herron as a Past President and sponsor from Franklin CD, and Treacy Kreger from Thurston CD have all expressed an interest in participating on the team. Wendy will lead the effort. Dean Longrie also expressed an interest in participating.

Dave V. asked the Area Directors if they are interested in participating or know people within their respective areas who would commit to help. Wendy noted there are a number of steps that need to take place before the team starts contacting potential donors. Dave V. noted that Shamra Clark, our fundraising consultant, is working on a plan that will incorporate all of the steps required before the team goes out.

Team should consist of at least 10 to 20 people and needs to be fully committed to the task in order for this to be successful. Once organized, Shamra will coach the team members on what they need to know and do.

Motion: Wendy Pare moved that a solicitation memo to the districts be prepared for Alan Stromberger's signature within the next two weeks outlining WACD's goal and purpose in fundraising and asking for supervisor interest in participating on the fundraising team. The goal is to have names of team members not later than February 17. David Guenther seconded. Motion carried.

- Committee appointments – John Keatley, Chair of the Natural Resources Policy Committee has indicated he is not able to continue on as Chair due to other time commitments. Clinton O'Keefe has indicated his willingness to continue for another term as Chair of the District Operations & Education Committee. Mark Craven will assume the Chair's role on the Legislative Committee as Vice President. David Guenther as Past President will assume the Chair of both the Bylaws and Nominating Committees. With Wendy's election as Secretary Treasurer, she will move from the District Operations Committee over to Legislative. Michael Crowder will also move to Legislative from Natural Resources with his election as National Director.

Dave V. would like to have the Chair slots for each committee firmed up first, and then fill the vacancies on each of the standing committees by shifting members around and/or appointing new members so we will have fully operational committees. The first task is to find a new Chair of the Natural Resources Policy Committee.

Action: It was suggested that existing members be polled to see if one has an interest in assuming the role of Chair. If no member expresses interest in assuming the Chair role, Dave V. will send a solicitation email to all supervisors requesting interest in the Chair appointment.

Action: The Area Directors were requested to look within their areas for interested supervisors in serving on one of the committees where there are vacancies. A list of current committees showing vacancies will be sent to the Board.

Tribal Outreach Task Force – Tanna Engdahl, Associate Supervisor from Clark CD, and a tribal elder of the Cowlitz Tribe is chair of WACD's Tribal Outreach Task Force. Tanna reported that the task force held their first teleconference of 2014 this month for the purpose of assisting Kathy Whalen with putting together several tribal sessions at WADE. One session will include a sharing of success stories between districts and their tribal partners. A second session will focus on native plants of an important and sensitive nature to tribes. There was a lot of enthusiasm among task force members on this topic with many willing to help put a session together.

Partner Reports

WADE – Kathy Whalen:

- Kathy announced that a plan for the WADE sessions will be completed by the end of this month. The training sessions will again be held at the Sleeping Lady Conference Center in Leavenworth in June. Kathy commented that WADE has quite a bit of scholarship money available this year. Thanks to the WSCC, there will be one scholarship available per district. There is also approximately \$3,000 in additional scholarship money generated from WADE's annual auction.
- Kathy will be attending this year's NACD meeting in Anaheim in early February.

WSCC – Mark Clark:

- By March, the Commission will have a framework in place for the budget development process. Mark will work with WACD to populate four or five committees to start that process. Subcommittee work will be done by May. At the May Commission meeting, staff will present a functional budget and then send it out to the CDs so they can enter information in and hopefully get it back to the Commission by August. Mark will keep everyone up to date on each of the steps along the way.
 - **Action:** Mark will work with Dave V. and Kathy Whalen to prepare a joint letter out to the districts explaining how the process will work, and to prepare districts for the steps ahead.
- Existing budget – there were so many good projects contained in CPDS that Mark overshot a bit. The Commission is currently working at a deficit with respect to Category 3 projects (water quality non-shellfish areas) but expect that to balance out by the end of the biennium.
- CPDS – Mark doesn't know if the CPDS system is the right tool to do budget projections with, but for now, the Commission will continue to use it until they have determined

what's not working and what needs to be fixed. There will be some modification made in the meantime.

- Mark thanked the Board and supervisors for coming to Olympia and helping to lobby legislators on the Commission's supplemental budget.
- The Commission will address the remainder of WACD's resolutions (non-budget) at the March meeting.
- Mark and Roylene just attended a 7 Director meeting (soon to be 8) on buffers. It was a good meeting and was the first time the directors had Will Stelle from NOAA in the room with them. Also attending was Phil Anderson from the Department of Fish & Wildlife. Mark noted that they had an opportunity to discuss the confusion that is surrounding the buffer issue. Districts should look for some communication on this within the next several months.

NRCS – Roylene Rides at the Door:

- The 590 Nutrient Standard is in draft. There will be more discussion on this at the STAC meeting on Tuesday, January 28. A STAC subcommittee will continue to work on a recommendation on winter applications and staff will be looking a transition period.
- Waiver process – Staff will try to get a process developed to get to the directors to see what it means. Roylene is asking STAC to work quickly as she will have to start obligating funds soon.
- There will be some revamping of STAC membership at the 1/28/14 meeting.
- Farm Bill – Roylene announced there is movement on the Farm Bill. It is supposed to go to the House today to be registered as their version of the bill.
 - The House will vote on the bill on 1/29/14.
 - It is anticipated that the Senate will vote on it the first two weeks of February.
 - There are two pots of money now instead of 26 which Roylene is very excited about. It will make it much easier for NRCS and provide more flexibility.
 - There is “no end” money. Funds can be rolled over from one year to the next.
 - The bill will be effective the day it is signed.
 - No increase in funding in the bill for NRCS. Will remain flat.
- NRCS is moving to fill 19 positions in the next several months.
- NRCS is moving to a centralized administrative process. Washington State has been participating in a pilot of this process already.

Area Director Reports

NW Area

- Don Hatler of Clallam CD reported that Clallam is entering into a deal with the local county health department and with cooperation from the Conservation Commission, to take on the worst septic systems in the clean water districts and working with the land owners through cost share to clean up those systems. The worst septic systems have been identified and they have received permission from the owners to do the clean-up.

SW Area

- David Hall of Thurston CD reported that he attended one of the Lewis CD's Board meetings with the purpose of reaching out to them if they need any assistance from him as one of their Area Directors.
- Dean Longrie of Clark CD noted that one of Clark's key supporters of their assessment has announced they are not running for re-election.

NC Area

- John Preston reported that Grant CD moved their offices to Moses Lake on Main Street last week. Staff continues to settle in.

SC Area

- Mark Moore described the work of CDs in the Manastash project.

NE Area

- Tom Miller reported that Spokane is working with the regional health district to identify the direct seed equipment that needs upgrading.

SE Area

- Jerry Hendrickson has made appointments with the legislators in his area to discuss funding during legislative days.

Follow-Up to Jim Huckabay Report

Dave V. pointed out to the Area Directors that none of them, with the exception of David Hall, really talked about their areas during their reports. They only spoke about their individual district. As a follow-up to the session with Jim Huckabay at the December 2013 meeting, Jim has expressed an interest in continuing to work with the Area Directors. Dave V. noted that time is an issue for all Area Directors and said we need to talk about the most important things that Area Directors can do. Dave would rather have the Area Directors doing a few things and do them well and have staff assist them in the most efficient use of their time. Area Directors expressed an interest in continuing work with Jim on the role for Area Directors.

Other

2013 Auction Funds – David Guenther asked how much money was raised at the December annual meeting auction. A total of \$5,972 was raised. The Board has adopted a new policy on what the priorities are for utilization of those education funds. Those are:

1. Leadership development training for supervisors
2. District technical employees training

Dave V. noted that the Washington Conservation Society has received interest from someone in providing funding for leadership development training. There will be a conference call on Friday, February 7 to learn more about that.

Dave V. suggested that the Board use some of the WACD education auction funds for one or both of the priorities noted above. The Executive Committee can develop a plan for how to implement distribution of the funds. Mark Clark said the Commission is interested in participating in this effort by providing some funding as well.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 16, 2014 beginning at 8:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. at the Best Western Icicle Inn located at 505 Highway 2 in Leavenworth, WA.

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Gregory
Administrative Coordinator