



# WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

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Tribal Outreach Task Force Conference Call Meeting Notes  
September 29, 2014  
11:00 a.m.

Present:

Tanna Engdahl, Chair, Clark CD  
Lynn Engdahl, Clark CD  
Monte Marti, Snohomish CD  
Robin Slate, NRCS  
Roylene Rides at the Door, NRCS  
Michael Crowder, Benton CD  
David Guenther, Central Klickitat CD  
Dave Vogel, WACD Executive Director  
Deb Gregory, WACD Administrative Coordinator

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Chair Tanna Engdahl opened the meeting at 11:06 a.m.

Dave V. mentioned that members not present include Kathy Whalen, WADE President; Dean Longrie, Western Region Commission member appointed by Jim Peters at the Conservation Commission; Jackie Richter of the Colville Federated Tribes; and Mike Stamon from the Quinault Indian Nation.

Dean Longrie replaces Larry Davis who is no longer on the WSCC. Tanna noted that even though Larry is no longer on the task force, she thanked him for his work on the subgroup who helped developed the criteria for the new Tribal-CD Partnership Award.

Catch-up on TOTF activities to date

- Letters to 29 tribal chairs sent in March.
- Letters to 29 tribal Natural Resource Directors sent in June.
- Have new Tribal-CD Partnership Award. Received one nomination for this year's awards at the annual meeting from Snohomish CD for their partnership with the Tulalip Tribe and Terry and Daryl Williams.
- There were two tribal-related sessions at the WADE conference in June in Leavenworth. Both were a success with good attendance and interest at both.
- Alan Stromberger, Michael Crowder and Dave V. met with members of our state's congressional delegation in March. They also met with Ann Mills, Under Secretary for the Environment and Natural Resources for USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack. Prior to the meeting, Dave V. prepared and shared a copy of a TOTF Report on the current activities of the task force. They received good feedback and complimented WACD on creating the task force to further outreach and understanding between CDs and tribes.
- WACD now has a fully executed contribution agreement with NRCS. It includes some near-term activities and actions that the task force is invited to support.
- Dave V. is seeking ideas for where the task force should go in developing a work plan.

David G. commented that even though Larry Davis is no longer a Conservation Commissioner, he had a lot of great ideas and enthusiasm for the work of the task force. David G. recommended that Larry be invited to rejoin the task force as a supervisor from Whatcom CD. Tanna agreed and thought it was a wonderful idea.

**Action:** Tanna requested that WACD staff prepare an invitation to Larry Davis to rejoin the task force. Further, if Larry accepts, that he be added to the subgroup tasked with helping to prepare the work plan.

#### Forecast of near-term TOTF activities, including WACD annual meeting concurrent TOTF session

- WACD wants to continue the work of the task force at the annual meeting to build upon last year's general session by providing a venue for districts to see the work of the task force, and to keep momentum going. In developing the program for the annual meeting, WACD has allocated one of the four concurrent sessions on Wednesday, December 3 to the task force. It accomplishes several things: (1) provides an opportunity for the task force to meet in person; (2) allows the districts to interact; and (3) provides a forum for developing the work plan based on district input.
- Working with NRCS on the contribution agreement. There are two main elements:
  - Tribal outreach and partnership
  - Local working groups

The agreement includes WACD assistance with securing a location for a WACTAC meeting. Another element is pulling together a Tribal/CD training session that will include extracts from some of the training sessions that NRCS has been doing relative to working collaboratively with tribes. WACD's role would be finding a venue, handling the logistics, and coordinating with NRCS on a commitment to arrange for speakers. The proposed outline for the training can be presented by the task force during its concurrent session at the annual meeting.

- A pre-training session survey will need to be developed. Dave V. seeking input from the task force to ensure the right questions are included. The survey will be used to solicit input from the districts to find out what their needs are and then adapt the training course curriculum to fit the districts' needs. Tanna thanked Robin and Dave V. for their work in getting this together. She would like to involve Lynn Engdahl and Larry Davis in reviewing the curriculum before it is presented at the annual meeting. Roylene will send a copy of past training agendas used by NRCS as a place to start.

Roylene complimented WACD and the task force for being willing to try something new to break down the barriers that currently may exist between tribes and CDs so that it becomes a win/win for everyone. Roylene noted that the Commission meeting in January 2015 will be in Port Angeles. She has suggested to both Jim Peters and Mark Clark that they invite members of the Lower Elwha Tribe to come to the meeting to make a presentation on their work associated with dam removal on the Elwha river.

Tanna suggested that when Roylene and Robin are meeting with tribal members from around the state, that they work with the task force in setting up a table with task force materials to share. It was recommended that a brochure be created that could be handed out in such venues. Robin offered to help work on a brochure that could be made available. This item would be a good one to include in a task force work plan.

Tanna requested that in Alan Stromberger's opening remarks at the annual meeting, that there be some mention of the task force and its work to date.

Next steps:

- **October 6 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** – Available members of the task force meet with Dave V. in Tumwater at WACD's office located within the Thurston Conservation District. The conference room is located on the first floor at 2918 Ferguson Street SW, Suite A. The purpose of the meeting will be to begin developing the pre-training session survey with the intent that the survey be sent to all districts in October with a return date in time for results to be analyzed prior to the task force concurrent session at the annual meeting.
- Begin fleshing out the training session curriculum from the preliminary proposal already prepared by Robin Slate and Dave V.
- Dave V. to determine if there is any flexibility to offer financial assistance to speakers at the training session or the ability to offer some scholarships under the NRCS contribution agreement or by other means.

**Action:** A notice will be sent to the task force with the time and place for the October 6 meeting. The notice will include the current training session curriculum preliminary proposal.

Robin advised that she will not be attending this year's annual meeting because of the Chief's limit that was given to him by Secretary Vilsack's office. This has required that Roylene significantly reduce the number of WA state NRCS personnel able to attend WACD's annual meeting.

Also included in WACD's contribution agreement with NRCS is assistance by WACD in securing a venue for the WACTAC meeting in 2015. A tribal community center venue will likely attract more tribal attendees to the meeting. Dave V. asked the task force to think about possible tribal locations. Monte Marti suggested the new Stillaguamish Tribal facility as a possibility and will discuss this with his contact at the next opportunity if this is a location the task force would like to consider.

#### Tribal-CD Partnership Award

In response to WACD's call for nominations for the new Tribal-CD Partnership Award, one nomination was received from Monte Marti at Snohomish CD in recognition of his CD's partnership with the Tulalip Tribe and Terry and Daryl Williams. WACD's Awards Committee will want the task force's endorsement of this nomination. By consensus, the task force approved this award nomination going forward to the Awards Committee for selection.

#### Native Plant Society Connection

Tanna has talked with Dean Longrie, President, Washington State Native Plant Society, about forming a Native Plant Society on the west side of the state to encompass Clark, Cowlitz and Lewis CDs. In the meantime, the Cowlitz Tribe has formed a new group called Cowlitz Medicine Women. This group is starting to develop some native plant-related natural medicines for things like cough and cold.

Tanna and Lynn attended a seminar put together by the Northwest Indian College on "Our Food is Our Medicine". It was three days of very good information and provided some hands-on work. Tanna has also discussed this as a possible topic at the 2015 WADE conference with Kathy Whalen. She will be discussing this in greater detail with Dean in the coming months.

Task Force Work Plan

The task force will need to develop an outline for use at Suncadia to include near-term things going on and solicit input from the districts and partners that will be attending the concurrent session.

**Action:** If task force members have ideas and suggestions for things to include in the work plan outline or questions to include in the pre-training session survey, please send those to Dave V. as soon as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Gregory  
WACD Administrative Coordinator