



Washington Association of Conservation Districts

Board of Directors Meeting

December 1, 2014

Miller Room, Suncadia Lodge, Cle Elum, WA

MOTIONS

- Motion: Tom Miller moved to approve the 9/16/2014 Board meeting minutes as written. Jerry Hendrickson seconded. The motion carried.
- Motion: Kathy Whalen moved to approve the October 2014 financial report. Mark Craven seconded. The motion carried.
- Motion: John Preston moved to accept all of the 2015 Board meeting proposed dates. Mark Moore seconded. The motion carried.
- Motion: Tom Miller moved to approve the Executive Committee's recommendation to proceed with Foster Pepper in the matter of the Public Records Act filing. Robin Flem seconded. The motion carried.

Board of Directors Present

Alan Stromberger, President
Mark Craven, Vice President
David Guenther, Past President
Wendy Pare, Secretary-Treasurer
Michael Crowder, National Director
Jeff Ellingsen, NW Area Director
Don Hatler, NW Area Director
Bob Falkner, SW Area Director
John McLean, NC Area Director
John Preston, NC Area Director

Mark Moore, SC Area Director
Gail Thornton, SC Area Director
Eddie Johnson, NE Area Director
Tom Miller, NE Area Director
Jerry Hendrickson, SE Area Director
Robin Flem, SE Area Director
Kathy Whalen, WADE President

Board Members Not Present

Dean Longrie, SW Area Director

Others in Attendance for All or Part of the Meeting

Mark Clark, WSCC	Lee Hemmer, Foster Creek CD
Roylene Rides at the Door, NRCS	Joe Holtrop, Clallam CD
Karen Bishop, WADE Vice President	Robert Beebe, Clallam CD
Lynn Engdahl, Clark CD	David Hall, Thurston CD
Tanna Engdahl, Clark CD	Monte Marti, Snohomish CD
Ted Ramsay, NACD	Carolyn Kelly, Skagit CD
Jim Jesernig, WACD Legis. Consultant	Dick Ryon, King CD

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Brad Jesernig

WACD Staff Present

Dave Vogel, Executive Director

Deb Gregory, Administrative Coordinator

President Alan Stromberger opened the meeting at 12:05 p.m. He announced that there had been a change to the agenda with the Board moving into executive session later in the day to discuss a legal matter.

Michael Crowder, WACD National Director, introduced Ted Ramsey, NACD Western Issues Specialist, as a guest at the meeting. Ted advised that NACD will be holding their annual summer meeting July 11-13, 2015 in Spokane, WA. Plans are currently under way for the program. Ted requested that if any Board members had ideas for tours, to please advance those through Dave Vogel. NACD is looking forward to greater representation from the western states. David Guenther suggested inviting members of the western region's congressional delegation to attend the meeting. Ted noted and will follow up on that.

WACD Business

- 9/16/2014 Draft Board Meeting Minutes – **Motion:** Tom Miller moved to approve the 9/16/2014 Board meeting minutes as written. Jerry Hendrickson seconded. The motion carried.

- October 2014 Financial Report – Wendy reported that all dues with the exception of Adams CD, have been collected to date. Wendy is working with Lori McLaughlin on where WACD's expenses and revenues will be as a result of the annual meeting. A revised budget will be prepared and presented at the March 2015 Board meeting.
 - WACD has a contribution agreement in place with NRCS which will factor in with expenses and revenues.
 - The Plant Materials Center is on target to meet their budget. They are experiencing some plant loss due to the freeze. The damage is being managed.**Motion:** Kathy Whalen moved to approve the October 2014 financial report. Mark Craven seconded. David Guenther asked if there was any information about why Adams CD had not paid their dues this year. The District is having some financial issues and the Conservation Commission is working with their Board. They are also in the process of working to find one more supervisor to complete their Board membership. There was no further discussion, and the motion carried.

WACD Nominating Committee Report

David Guenther, Chair of the WACD Nominating Committee, reported that this year's Nominating Committee met by conference call to interview candidates for WACD President and Vice President, and the candidate for the Conservation Commission west region representative position, and the candidates for the Conservation Commission central region representative. The Nominating Committee will meet on Tuesday, December 2, 2014 at Suncadia to offer a recommended slate of WACD officers. The WACD officer candidates are Alan Stromberger for President and Mark Craven for Vice President, both for a second one-year term. The Commission west region representative candidate is Dean Longrie from Clark CD who is running unopposed. The Commission central region candidates are Lynn Brown from Kittitas County CD, and Chris Herron from Franklin CD. All candidates are well-qualified and will have

an opportunity to address the membership during the December 3, 2014 Business Meeting at Suncadia. Nominations may also be made from the floor.

WACD Annual Meeting Locations

WACD's annual meeting for 2015 will be at the Spokane Doubletree Hotel and in 2016 will be held at Semiahmoo in Blaine. There were some discussions at the September Board meeting about rotating locations around the state for future meetings between west, central and east. Mark Craven noted that it is very helpful to WACD staff who plan the meetings to work with two year contracts in each geographical location. It was recommended that in looking at locations beyond 2016 that per diem rates be kept in mind. The Board concurred in the rotational idea and staff noted the need to keep costs in mind when making location selections.

Assignment of 2014 Area Meeting Resolutions

Dave Vogel discussed the area meeting resolutions and noted how several were combined, as they were "me too" in nature. Assignments were made to the Legislative Committee, the District Operations and Education Committee and the Natural Resources Policy Committee. Resolutions were sent out as a packet to all districts for advance review prior to this meeting. Since that time, two new resolutions have been introduced (one by the Legislative Committee and one by Spokane CD) that will be added to the Legislative Committee's list of resolutions for discussion and action during Tuesday's committee work session.

WACD 2015 Board Meeting Dates

Dates for the 2015 Board meetings were presented to the Board for consideration. **Motion:** John Preston moved to accept all of the 2015 Board meeting proposed dates. Mark Moore seconded. The motion carried.

Partner Reports

WADE: Kathy Whalen, WADE President –

- All WADE track coordinators are busily working on sessions for the June 2015 meeting at Sleeping Lady in Leavenworth, WA.
- WADE has done an update of their Bylaws which will be presented at the WADE breakfast on Wednesday morning and then brought WADE members for approval at next June's meeting. Craig Nelson, Okanogan CD District Manager, will be making a presentation at the WADE breakfast on Wednesday morning regarding the summer fires in the Okanogan. A more detailed concurrent session is scheduled for Wednesday morning on emergency preparedness led by Bill Eller of the Conservation Commission.

Conservation Commission: Mark Clark, Executive Director –

- The Governor's budget is due for release by December 20. There will be two budgets released. The first will be a balanced budget with some cuts, and then a second budget will be issued with revenue ideas the Governor would like to pursue. Once this happens, the Commission will get these out to the Districts. The Commission will schedule another budget group meeting to help determine which version to focus on.
- Commission staff have a raw cut of all of the districts' Capital Budget priorities. A total of \$48 million worth of capital projects has been submitted. Some may not be capital and a further review is being done on those.

- Laura Johnson, Conservation Commission staff, has the Commission's annual report ready on USB drives that will be available for distribution at the annual meeting. The report is also available on the Commission's website.
- The Communications Group has been working on a unified message logo. They are about to seek district input on what their group has developed to date. Mark encouraged supervisors to provide their comments at the Commission's display booth in the pre-function area by dropping a card in the comment box.
- Governor Inslee requested that the Department of Agriculture introduce legislation on how manure is handled. The Commission has done a quick read of the draft. When the Z-draft becomes available, the Commission will be sending it to the districts for response. Mark asked WACD to consider how they would like to deal with the responses from the districts. David Guenther asked if this was an issue where WACD should introduce an emergency resolution from the floor in response to this. Mark responded that the better way to handle it may be to offer input to the draft legislation when it is formally introduced as there will be opportunities to do so.
- Commission elections – There will be a separate election at the annual meeting for the two openings. One in the west region and one in the central region. Any supervisor can vote. The results will be announced at the closing banquet.
- The Commission has several new staff members. Shana Joy is the new Regional Manager for the Puget Sound Region. Brian Cochrane is the new Habitat and Monitoring Coordinator. Both Shana and Brian will be at the annual meeting and Mark encouraged Board members to introduce themselves if they have not already done so. The Eastern Region Manager recruitment process is underway. The list of finalists has been narrowed to two candidates. The Commission is also recruiting for a new financial staff person and have initiated the process to find a replacement.
- Mark thanked everyone for their work on the budget. The process we are now following is a major improvement and was noticed very favorably by OFM staff.
- Mark noted that it has been a good year between WSCC and WACD. Much work has been completed on determining roles and responsibilities of each in a way that works with our finite resources in the best way possible for the districts.
- At least 23 letters have been submitted to the Governor's office from the districts in support of the Commission's budget and urging the Governor not to make the proposed 15% across the board cuts.

Natural Resources Conservation Service: Roylene Rides at the Door, State Conservationist –

- CSP – Program is struggling. NRCS did extend the deadline to the end of December. The program is struggling nationwide to hit the tax year-end. NRCS is working to determine what will happen if they don't hit the target.
- NRCS has completed its agreement with the Conservation Commission for task orders.
- There are no major issues with NRCS' budget at this time.
- All task orders are moving forward.

The Board went into executive session at 1:30 p.m. for approximately one hour to discuss a legal matter. The Board reconvened into regular session at 2:30 p.m.

Motion: Tom Miller moved to approve the Executive Committee's recommendation to proceed with Foster Pepper in the matter of the Public Records Act filing. Robin Flem seconded. The motion carried.

Area Director Roles and Responsibilities

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This is the third in a series of facilitated discussions with Jim Huckabay on Area Director roles and responsibilities and looking at how Area Directors communicate with their Board Chairs and districts. Jim asked the Area Directors what was the most important thing that Area Directors can help District Boards to do.

- Work with districts to listen and help resolve their issues and concerns.
- Districts help landowners work the land and continue to produce.

Some suggestions:

- Shorter communications from WACD to districts. Many of the supervisors work remotely and don't check emails often. They want to see shorter, more concise communications.
- Have a two-hour block of time on WACD Board of Director agendas for the Area Directors forum to open up the floor for any discussion topics that come to mind or to share success stories.
- Put the Conservation Commission's supervisor-elected representatives and WACD Area Directors in greater contact with each other to work on issues together.

WACD Area Directors felt more positive about progress with communication issues as a result of sessions held during the past year (2013-14).

There being no further Board business to discuss, the Board adjourned its regular meeting at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deb Gregory
Administrative Coordinator