



Washington Association of Conservation Districts
Business Meeting Notes
Wednesday, December 3, 2014
2:00 – 6:00 p.m.
Owens Ballroom – Suncadia Lodge
Cle Elum, Washington

Alan Stromberger – gave President’s report, including WACD national activities; NACD in Anaheim, CA in February; and legislative work.

Meeting was called to order at 2:00 pm. Roll call accounted for. There were 77 supervisors present to vote with four Associate Supervisors eligible to vote in WACD business by proxy from each of their respective districts. These are:

- Milada Allen – Clark CD
- Harold Crose – Grant CD
- Gerri Oberg – Okanogan CD
- Lynn Bahrych – San Juan Islands CD

Consent agenda includes minutes and financials in packet.

Moved to approve consent agenda Robin Flem, Columbia CD
2nd. Doug Rushton, Thurston CD
Passed. Approval of 2013 minutes and financials passed.

Dave Vogel reviewed the status of the 2013 resolutions. Reviewed report included in packet.

Dave Vogel reviewed the process for moving resolutions out of committee. Tom McKern is the WACD parliamentarian. If there are any questions regarding Roberts Rules of Order, he will be the final word. Dave noted that WACD wants to make sure that everyone’s concerns are met and everyone has an opportunity to be heard. We do not wish to go too fast to miss anyone’s comments or concerns.

District Ops/Education Committee – Clinton O’Keefe, Palouse Rock Lake CD, Chair

Will read the Title – Recommendation and move do pass.

Res 2014-12 – Changes to WA State DNR State-Owned Aquatic Land (SOAL)
Permitting/License Process
Moved by Bill Knutsen, King CD
2nd by Eddie Johnson, Lincoln CD
Passed.

There was discussion. Dave V. told the group about his and Mark Clark's discussions with DNR regarding the conservation license process. This resolution is the first step in the continuing dialog.

The permit fees are \$900 each. Cascadia CD said that their main issue was also the length of term of monitoring and maintenance. Both of these issues are addressed by DNR in their proposed solution to Dave V. Dave V. read for members these proposed negotiation points. Negotiations will continue.

Resolution 2014-13 – Enabling Conservation on the Ground in a Timely, Efficient Manner Regarding Cultural Resources Review

Moved by Larry Helm, Whatcom CD

2nd Bill Boyum, Kittitas CD

Passed. One opposition. No abstentions.

Kelly Clothier, Underwood CD, questioned whether to add an amendment to the resolution in regards to emergencies. However, Clinton O'Keefe said that the next resolution discussed this issue. No amendment was offered.

Resolution 2014-14 – Requesting Development of Rapid Permitting and Cultural Resources Reviews During Emergencies

Moved by Lynn Brown, Kittitas CD

2nd by David Hall, Thurston CD

Passed. Two opposed. One abstention.

There was discussion about whether this resolution applies to action necessary to protect lives and property during an emergency, or to acquiring permits.

Craig Nelson, Okanogan CD, clarified that the resolution addressed permits such as Cultural Resources, applied to fence post building and putting in rain gauges in streams.

Resolution 2014-15 – District Overhead Operating Expenditures

Moved by Doug Rushton, Thurston CD

2nd Lee Hemmer, Foster Creek CD.

Passed.

Resolution 2014-16 – Ecology Centennial and 319 Grant Funding Agreements Timeliness of Payments

Moved by David Hall, Thurston CD

2nd Dick Ryon, King CD

Passed.

Resolution 2014-17 – Ecology Centennial and 319 Grant Funding Agreements Termination Due to Insufficient Funds

Moved by Larry Helm, Whatcom CD

2nd by Treacy Kreger, Thurston CD

Passed.

Natural Resources Committee – Jack Clark, Benton CD, Chair

Resolution 2014-09 – Green Stormwater Program

Moved by Lee Hemmer, Foster Creek
2nd by Eddie Johnson, Lincoln CD
Passed.

Resolution 2014-10 – Management Systems

Moved by Chris Herron, Franklin CD
2nd Pete Swannack, Palouse Rock Lake CD

Amendment to add “voluntary” conservation in recommendation Ivan Oberg, Okanogan CD
2nd John Preston, Grant CD
Amendment passed.

Motion as amended passed.

Resolution 2014-11 – Control of Zostera Japonica on Public and Private Lands

Moved by Eddie Johnson, Lincoln CD
2nd by Lee Hemmer, Foster Creek CD

There was discussion regarding the identification and listing of noxious weeds. Jim Jesernig stated that private landowners are required to take care of their noxious weeds. But the public lands controllers do not always do so. They should be required to take care of it as well.

Amendment to add “all noxious weeds listed by the Washington State Noxious Weed Board”
Dave Stadelman, Grant CD.
2nd by Dick Ryon, King CD
Amendment passed.

Resolution as amended passed.

WACD Legislative Committee – Mark Craven, WACD Vice President from Snohomish CD, Chair

Resolution 2014-01 – Conservation District Long-Term Funding Opportunities

Moved by Larry Helm, Whatcom CD
2nd Dick Ryon, King CD
Passed.

Resolution 2014-02 – Supporting Full Funding for the Forest, Rangeland Health, and Fire Resiliency Program

Moved by Larry Helm, Whatcom CD
2nd Treacy Kreger, Thurston CD
Passed.

Resolution 2014-03 – Supporting Full Funding for the Voluntary Stewardship Program

Moved by Jim Goche, Thurston CD
2nd Dick Ryon, King CD
Motion Passed. One opposed.

Larry Helm, Whatcom CD, reiterated that action by committee was to ensure that non-VSP counties/CDs are not forgotten during the implementation phase for practices in critical areas.

Resolution 2014-04 – Support Funding for Key Natural Resource Programs to Assist the Implementation of our Work

Moved by Dave Stadelman, Grant CD
2nd Dave Guenther, Central Klickitat CD
Passed.

Resolution 2014-05 – Supporting Conservation Commission Emergency Response Funding

Moved by Wade Troutman, Foster Creek CD
2nd Dave Guenther, Central Klickitat CD
Passed.

Resolution 2014-06 – Washington Coast Marine Advisory Council

Moved by Brian Sheldon, Pacific CD
2nd Joe Florek, Wahkiakum CD
Passed.

Resolution 2014-07 – Right to Farm for Shellfish Farmers

Moved by Dave Guenther, Central Klickitat CD
2nd by Brian Sheldon, Pacific CD
Passed.

Resolution 2014-18 – Encouraging Sustained Conservation District Funding Strategy Through the Rates and Charges Option

Moved by Dave Stadelman, Grant CD
2nd Dick Ryon, King CD
Passed.

This resolution encourages Districts that have, or desire, an assessment to begin action to adopt a rates and charges system.

Resolution 2014-19 – Sales Tax Exemption Incentive

Moved by Mark Craven, Snohomish CD (committee chair)
2nd Tom Miller, Spokane CD

This resolution was not passed by the Legislative Committee, but was brought back to the floor by the Committee Chair, with Spokane CD offering an amendment.

Amendment as printed on the handout.

Tom Miller, Spokane CD, moves to amend the resolution as drafted
2nd Sheila Wynn, Pierce CD

Jim Jesernig spoke to the sales tax exemption. There are 55 different sales tax exemptions in the amount of \$800,000 per year for agriculture. All agriculture groups will oppose a resolution if tied to certification. WACD may support tax incentives for farm equipment for conservation efforts. Even though tax incentives are opposed by some legislators, is this the year to try to pass this? The real issue is does this incentive make sense from a conservation angle.

Called for the previous question by Dave Guenther, Central Klickitat CD
2nd by Doug Rushton, Thurston CD; Motion passed.

Resolution passed as amended.

Michael Crowder, WACD National Director Report.

Good meeting at NACD in Anaheim, CA. Our one resolution put forth did pass at the national level. Larry Davis, Whatcom was the author of the resolution. The resolution required that NACD tell the sponsoring District what the status of their resolutions is, so that they do not go into a black hole with no word on their status.

Michael, Wade Troutman and Dave Vogel went to Washington, DC for the “fly in” at NACD to meet with the legislators and agencies.

The NACD meeting will be in New Orleans in February 2015. NACD’s 2015 Summer Board meeting will be in Spokane next year.

Ted Ramsey, NACD’s Western Issues Specialist and Michael Crowder, gave a report to the group. Ted was asked about the Western Districts’ role in the Waters of the U. S. rule (WOTUS) and Title II provisions in the Farm Bill. NACD administration met with EPA regarding the water rights proposal.

Wade Troutman talked about his and NACD’s role in the Farm Bill discussions about conservation compliance and crop insurance subsidies.

Larry Davis, Whatcom has been on the NACD Standing Policy Book Task Force for the past four years or so. At this point Conservation Districts do not have direct access to the policies that NACD adopts on our behalf. Ted followed up with comments that states do not have a standard resolution format.

Alan Stromberger – reminder about Legislative Days on March 25, 2015

Dave Vogel – Legislative Strategy. It’s all about the budget.

At this point, we want to get the most out of the Governor’s Budget, as a start with our discussions with legislators. Conservation Districts need to write letters of support for the budget to the Governor and get letters from your cooperators. Dave has copies of letters to the Governor from 23 CDs.

The Association just passed resolutions on rates and charges and VSP. We need to find a way to partner with others to get funding for the big budget asks.

Jim Jesernig –

It will be a very difficult legislative session for the budget coming up. It is important to talk with your local legislators moving into the budget session. Secondly, work with various affiliations that CDs are tied with to make sure they are aware that the Conservation Commission/District funding is important for them as well as us.

The budget product is the best, most defensible budget that has ever been done by districts and the WSCC. Conservation Districts’ are seen as the group to get work done on the ground for Natural Resources.

Nominating Committee – Dave Guenther

Dave Guenther reviewed who served on this year's WACD nominating committee.

This year, there were two WACD positions open for election. They are one year positions for the President and Vice-President. There are also two open positions for the WSCC in the western and central regions of the state.

WACD Election of Officers

President –

Alan Stromberger nominated for President

There were no nominations from the floor. Alan spoke about his goals for the next year.

Vice President –

Mark Craven nominated for Vice-President

There were no nominations from the floor. Mark Craven spoke about his goals for the next year.

It was moved by David Hall, Thurston CD, that WACD Officers be unanimously elected
2nd by Robin Flem, Columbia CD
Unanimous Ballot was Passed.

Alan Stromberger adjourned the Business Meeting at 4:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Bekenyi

Whatcom Conservation District