

Washington Association of Conservation Districts
Remote Connection through Zoom
September 20, 2021
Board of Directors September Meeting Minutes

Members Remotely Present

Jeanette Dorner, President (Pierce CD)
Mike Mumford, Vice President (Pend Oreille CD)
Amy McKay, Secretary (Whitman CD)
Doug Rushton, National Director (Thurston CD)
Mark Craven, Past President (Snohomish CD)
Chris Porter, Northwest Area Director (King CD)
Alan Chapman, Northwest Area Director (Whatcom CD)
Dean Longrie, Southwest Area Director (Clark CD)
John Keatley, Southwest Area Director (Cowlitz CD)
John McLean, North Central Area Director (Foster Creek CD)
John Preston, North Central Area Director (Grant County CD)
Cindy Reed, South Central Area Director (North Yakima CD)
Barbara Bailey, South Central Area Director (Underwood CD)
Jeff Schibel, Northeast Area Director (Lincoln County CD)
Mary Collins, Southeast Area Director (Palouse CD)
Bill Blake, WADE President (Skagit CD)

Others Remotely Present

Tom Salzer, WACD Executive Director
Ryan Baye, WACD Legislative & Membership Lead
Nick Vira, NRCS Partnership Liaison
Carol Smith, WSCC Executive Director
Jim Brown, WACD PMC Nursery Manager

Summary of Board Actions

- **Motion:** Dean Longrie moved to adopt the agenda as presented, with an addition of the subject of the Washington Cares Act during the Treasurer's Report. Second by Chris Porter. Doug offered a friendly amendment to include "announcements" at the end of the meeting, which was accepted. Motion carried.
- **Motion:** Alan Chapman moved to adopt the June, July, and August meeting minutes with the correction in reference to June and July's minutes being from February. Second by Barbara Bailey. Motion carried.
- **Motion:** Chris Porter moved WACD increase the FY 22 budget by no more than \$3,000 to cover the employee's cost of the Washington Cares Act. Second by Doug Rushton. Motion carried.
- **Motion:** Alan Chapman moved to create a Special Investment Work Group to write a new WACD investment policy and report their recommendation back to the Board. Second by Barbara Bailey. Doug Rushton offered a friendly amendment to substitute "work group" for "committee" due to specific WACD nomenclature. Motion carried.

- **Motion:** Doug Rushton moved to adopt the amended policy on gratuities as presented, second by Amy McKay. Motion carried.
- **Motion:** Amy McKay moved to adopt the recommendations presented by the tribal relations committee. Second by Bill Blake. Motion carried with Alan Chapman abstaining.
- **Motion:** Dean Longrie moved the Board create an Associate Supervisor of the Year Award. Second by Amy McKay. John McLean moved to amend the title of the award to include “Friends of the Conservation District” as eligible recipients. Second by John Preston. John McLean shared the use of that term at Foster Creek CD. Barbara Bailey offered a friendly amendment to substitute “or equivalent” in place of “Friends of the CD”, which was accepted. Amendment adopted. Main motion adopted.
- **Motion:** Amy McKay moved to disseminate all four proposed changes to the CDs for comment and feedback, seconded by Dean Longrie. Alan Chapman offered a friendly amendment to include virtual participation at the Annual Conference as a potential 5th bylaw change, which was accepted. Motion carried.
- **Motion:** Mike Mumford moved to adopt resolution 2021-01 authorizing virtual participation at the Annual Business Meeting. Second by Amy McKay. Motion carried.

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 by President Dorner. Dean Longrie moved to adopt the agenda as presented, with an addition of the subject of the Washington Cares Act during the Treasurer’s Report. Second by Chris Porter. Doug offered a friendly amendment to include “announcements” at the end of the meeting, which was accepted. Motion carried.

Northwest Area Focus

Bill Blake described the work of the Puget Sound Caucus and Skagit CD programs. Chris Porter updated the board on King CD, including the background of their new Executive Director and upcoming projects. Mark Craven reported on Snohomish CD’s project and adjusting to operations with remote staff. Alan Chapman spoke to the many manager changes in the area, how seven districts were experiencing turnover. Jeanette shared Pierce CD’s Executive Director new position description announcement and updates on their larger projects.

Board Meeting Minute Approval.

Alan Chapman moved to adopt the June, July, and August meeting minutes with the correction in reference to June and July’s minutes being from February. Second by Barbara Bailey. Motion carried.

Treasurer’s Report

Ryan Baye spoke to the items included in the Treasurers report, in absence of Treasurer Fenn. He updated the board on the number of CDs paying FY22 dues, the status of the Long-Term Investment Account, the contract with the Commission, a new accountant, and another returned payment from the IRS. Jim Brown reported on the PMC’s operations and the high number of pre-orders totaling \$872,524.

Tom Salzer discussed the details of the Washington Cares Act with the board, the issues with the current structure of the program, and his recommendation WACD covers the cost to its employees for the first year while expected legislative changes are made to the program. He answered questions about whether or not the benefit to employees would be taxable, the potential expense to WACD, and why

private providers had pulled out of the long-term care insurance market. Chris Porter moved WACD increase the FY 22 budget by no more than \$3,000 to cover the employee's cost of the Washington Cares Act. Second by Doug Rushton. Motion carried.

Finance Committee Report

Tom Salzer spoke on behalf of Treasurer Fenn and the other members of the committee, with the recommendation the Board create a special investment committee to draft a new WACD Investment policy for the board to consider. He also updated the board on the committee's progress of the resolution to study the creation of a revolving fund. Alan Chapman moved to create a Special Investment Work Group to write a new WACD investment policy and report their recommendation back to the Board. Second by Barbara Bailey. Doug Rushton offered a friendly amendment to substitute "work group" for "committee" due to specific WACD nomenclature. Motion carried.

Proposed Amendment to Policy on Gratuities & Meals

Ryan Baye presented an amendment to WACD's policy on gratuities and meals, addressing outdated language from before WACD used receipts for reimbursement rather than per diem. Doug Rushton moved to adopt the presented policy on gratuities as presented. Second by Amy McKay. Motion carried.

Tribal Relations Committee Recommendations

Tom Salzer recapped the committee's presentation from a previous meeting, how it was being saved for action until a business meeting. He fielded questions about the composition of the committee and the outreach to Washington's sovereign tribes. Amy McKay moved to adopt the recommendations presented by the tribal relations committee. Second by Bill Blake. Motion carried with Alan Chapman abstaining.

Creation of an Associate Supervisor Award

Dean Longrie reminded the board of the discussion at the August Work Session and the positives from creating an award recognizing the dedicated Associate Supervisors and encourage additional individuals to get involved. Dean Longrie moved the Board create an Associate Supervisor of the Year Award. Second by Amy McKay. John McLean moved to amend the title of the award to include "Friends of the Conservation District" as eligible recipients. Second by John Preston. John McLean shared the use of that term at Foster Creek CD. Barbara Bailey offered a friendly amendment to substitute "or equivalent" in place of "Friends of the CD", which was accepted. Amendment adopted. Main motion adopted.

Proposed Bylaw Changes

Ryan Baye presented four potential bylaw changes to the board, items that had been discussed by the Board and others, for feedback at the area meetings. He also explained the standard practice for bylaw changes and the process required for ultimate adoption of any changes to WACD's Articles and Bylaws.

- Rock Lake CD name change
- Lengthening the term of service for WACD President and Vice President
- WACD Membership to non-dues paying members
- Long Term Sustainable Funding Committee

Amy McKay moved to disseminate all four proposed changes to the CDs for comment and feedback, seconded by Dean Longrie. Alan Chapman offered a friendly amendment to include virtual participation at the Annual Conference as a potential 5th bylaw change, which was accepted. Motion carried.

2021 Annual Conference

Ryan Baye and Tom Salzer presented an update to the Annual Conference planning for the Board's benefit, and correcting a misstatement from the previous work session regarding the current requirements of offering virtual participation at in-person meetings. He presented a draft resolution to the Board for its consideration, to authorize the use of virtual attendance and voting at the Business Meeting. Mike Mumford moved to adopt resolution 2021-01. Second by Amy McKay. Motion carried.

WACD Directory

Tom Salzer asked the board for its feedback on the issue of including certain personal information in WACD's District Directory. There were comments about the information already made public, how to respect the privacy of individuals, and the difference between "personal" and "business access".

Announcements

Doug Rushton shared the opportunity for input in NACD's Pacific region strategic plan deliberations.

There was a special goodbye to WSCC Executive Director Carol Smith before her retirement in October.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 by President Dorner.