

Washington Association of Conservation Districts

Summary of Motions

April 20, 2026

- **Motion:** Amy McKay presented the agenda with one proposed change, to add “Commission Resolution” under the WACD Advocacy agenda item. Craig Nelson moved the agenda as amended, second by John Preston. Motion carried.
- **Motion:** Amy McKay moved to adopt the consent agenda. Second by Jeff Schibel. Motion carried.
- **Motion:** John McLean moved to approve a transfer not to exceed \$99,221 from reserve funds. Second by David Vliet. Motion carried.
- **Motion:** Mike Mumford moved to hold the June Board Meeting virtually. Second by Mary Collins. Motion carried.
- **Motion:** David Vliet moved to accept the March financial report as presented. Second by Leah Perkel. Motion carried.
- **Motion:** Craig Nelson moved to withdraw \$23,500 from savings for Phase 1 of the Scoping Study. Second by John McLean. Motion carried.

Washington Association of Conservation Districts

WACD Executive Office – Olympia, WA

Remote Connection through Zoom

April 20, 2026

Board Meeting Minutes

Members Present

Amy McKay, President (Whitman CD)

Jeff Schibel, Vice President (Lincoln County CD)

Elizabeth Bella, Secretary (Underwood CD)

Cyndi Schaeffer, Treasurer (Snohomish CD)

Alan Chapman, Northwest Area Director (Whatcom CD)

David Vliet, Northwest Area Director (Kitsap CD)

Bruce McDonald, Southwest Area Director (Lewis CD)

Leak Perkel, Southwest Area Director (Clark CD)

John Preston, North Central Area Director (Columbia Basin CD)

John McLean, North Central Area Director (Foster Creek CD)

Steve Matsen, South Central Area Director (Eastern Klickitat CD)

John W. Floyd, Northeast Area Director (Pend Oreille CD)

Mary Collins, Southeast Area Director (Palouse CD)

Craig Nelson, Washington Association of District Employees (Okanogan CD)

Others Present

Tom Salzer, WACD Executive Director
Heather Wendt, WACD Deputy Director
Ryan Baye, WACD Director of Legislative & Membership Services
Lynn Bahrych, San Juan Islands CD Supervisor
Kris Neely, Spokane CD Associate Supervisor
James Thompson, WSCC Executive Director
Nick Vira, USDA-NRCS Partnership Liaison

President Amy McKay called the meeting to order at 6 o'clock. Ryan Baye conducted a roll call of members present to confirm a quorum.

Amy McKay presented the agenda with one proposed change, to add "Commission Resolution" under the WACD Advocacy agenda item. Craig Nelson moved the agenda as amended, second by John Preston. Motion carried.

Public Comment Period

No one from the public wished to speak.

Northwest Area Updates

Lynn Bahrych shared highlights from the SCC tour of the San Juan Islands Conservation District. James Thompson expressed appreciation for the district's effort.

Alan Chapman reported on Whatcom CD's participation in the Whatcom County Farm Expo and ongoing work on riparian and salmon recovery issues.

David Vliet provided updates from Kitsap CD, including supervisor turnover, progress on the district's GRACE Project and Farm to Freezer program, and funding changes impacting partnerships and habitat work.

Cyndi Schaeffer reported on a successful plant sale at Snohomish CD, upcoming Farm to Dinner partnership event, fundraising planning for a new building, and progress toward a union contract.

Alan Chapman noted Clallam CD's election in 2026 was being challenged.

Ryan Baye shared his observations on recent district visits in the Northwest Area.

Partner Reports

James Thompson shared updates on the Commission's strategic planning session in May, that interviews for their Director of Tribal Affairs were happening this week, two regional manager hiring announcements were out, and the upcoming SCC rulemaking.

Nick Vira reported on USDA-NRCS staffing levels, funding allocations, EQIP pre-approvals, and updates to proposed MOUs between NRCS and conservation districts.

Craig Nelson provided updates on the upcoming WADE conference, the available nominations for Employee of the Year, promoting the WADE Silent Auction and potential changes to their bylaws.

Heather Wendt shared updates on Washington Conservation Society's scholarship expansion with the Lynn Brown Memorial Scholarship.

Consent Agenda

Amy McKay moved to adopt the consent agenda. Second by Jeff Schibel. Motion carried.

WACD Financials

Cyndi Schaeffer reported on the March Financials, the reduced Plant Materials Center sales and investment fund fluctuations, and the initial planning for the FY2026-2027 budget.

Tom Salzer presented potential budget adjustments to respond to the reduction in WACD funding and proposed a transfer from reserves. John McLean moved to approve a transfer not to exceed \$99,221 from reserve funds. Second by David Vliet. Motion carried. Tom Salzer also brought forward cost saving measures, including reduced staff travel to SCC meetings and doing more remote event participation. Mike Mumford moved to hold the June Board Meeting virtually. Second by Mary Collins. Ryan Baye shared that staff were also planning to reduce travel to district meetings for the remainder of the fiscal year, depending on the board's vote. Motion carried. David Vliet moved to accept the March financial report as presented. Second by Leah Perkel. Motion carried.

WACD Committees

Heather Wendt reported that the Sustainable Funding Committee interviewed two firms around scoping the work around sustainable district funding. WACD staff requested that the board allow the committee to develop Phase 1 and Phase 2 components and include these in a supplemental budget request to CDs this year. Craig Nelson expressed preference for using reserves rather than supplemental dues.

Heather Wendt described the work being done by the Ways & Means Committee around additional engagement for CDs around the resolution process, with the primary goal being vetted, well-rounded resolutions that are actionable by WACD.

There was a board discussion about the resolution process, how districts and supervisors engage and think about resolutions, and the balance between brevity and engagement at the Annual Meeting. Craig Nelson moved to withdraw \$23,500 from savings for Phase 1 of the Scoping Study. Second by John McLean. Motion carried.

WACD Governance

Alan Chapman shared he wanted to see, and generate, more discussion from the board on issues and find ways to engage supervisors.

Ryan Baye shared an update on the search to fill the vacancies for the Northeast and Southeast Area Directors, with the goal of finding candidates amongst the new group of Supervisors coming on board in May.

David Vliet announced he had not applied for another appointment to the Kitsap CD board and would have to step down from his WACD Area Director position when he was no longer a supervisor in May.

WACD Advocacy

Ryan Baye discussed with the Board a potential decision making process on running an elections bill to run in 2027. The discussion included engagement with districts, utilizing the all-district legislative meeting next week, and potential sticking points amongst districts.

Amy McKay shared the resolution adopted in the fall on the Commission's "paramount duty" and sought feedback from the board on the approach. There was discussion about the specific goal of the resolution, why it was brought forward, and where this new policy would be placed within the Commission's policies.

Announcements

Ryan Baye announced he would be taking a two week vacation and would be out of the office from May 1 - 18.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30.