

## Washington Association of Conservation Districts

### Summary of April Board Actions

- **Motion** – Doug Rushton moved to adopt the agenda as presented with the ability to take agenda items out of order as necessary. Second by John Floyd. Motion carried.
- **Motion** – Lisa Zaborac moved to adopt the meeting minutes for the February board meeting, March work session, and March special board meeting. Second by Jerry Kolke. Motion carried.
- **Motion** - Dave Fenn moved to adopt the LGIP resolution language and authorize the Executive Director to complete and submit the application to enroll in the Local Government Investment Pool. Second by Amy McKay. Motion carried.
- **Motion** - Jeff Schibel moved to accept the Treasurer’s Report as presented. Second by Doug Rushton. Motion carried.
- **Motion** - Amy McKay moved to authorize up to \$2,500 for Dr. Allen Sutton’s cost associated with speaking at the 2023 WADE Conference. Second by Mary Collins. Motion carried on a voice vote.
- **Motion** – Doug Rushton moved to authorize staff to develop 2024 & 2025 conference proposals for a venue in Eastern Washington for the week after Thanksgiving, with a government per diem hotel rate, space up to 125 attendees, and the ability to participate remotely. Second by Mary Collins. Motion carried.

## Washington Association of Conservation Districts

### Remote Connection through Zoom

April 17, 2023

### Board Meeting Minutes

#### Members Remotely Present

Mike Mumford, President (Pend Oreille CD)  
Amy McKay, Vice-President (Whitman CD)  
Barbara Bailey, Secretary (Underwood CD)  
Doug Rushton, National Director (Thurston CD)  
Jeanette Dorner, Past President (Pierce CD)  
Alan Chapman, Northwest Area Director (Whatcom CD)  
Lisa Zaborac, Southwest Area Director (Grays Harbor CD)  
Jerry Kolke, Southwest Area Director (Clark CD)  
John Preston, North Central Area Director (Columbia Basin CD)  
John McLean, North Central Area Director (Foster Creek CD)  
Jack Clark, South Central Area Director (Benton CD)  
Jeff Schibel, Northeast Area Director (Lincoln County CD)  
John Floyd, Northeast Area Director (Pend Oreille CD)  
Mary Collins, Southeast Area Director (Palouse CD)  
Cindy Pierce, WADE President (Skagit CD)

### Others Remotely Present

Tom Salzer, WACD Executive Director  
Ryan Baye, WACD Legislative & Membership Director  
Jim Brown, WACD Director of Nursery Operations  
Kirk Robinson, WSCC Interim Executive Director  
John Larson, Whitman CD District Manager  
Jennifer Boie, Palouse CD District Manager  
Don Schwerin, Walla Walla County CD Supervisor

President Mike Mumford called the meeting to order at 6:01. Ryan Baye conducted a roll call to confirm a quorum was present. Doug Rushton moved to adopt the agenda as presented with the ability to take agenda items out of order as necessary. Second by John Floyd. Motion carried.

### **Area Focus**

Mary Collins shared a general update of the Southeast Area from her perspective as SE Area Director.

Josh Larsen, on behalf of Whitman CD, spoke of the success of the first Annual Joint Meeting with the other conservation districts in Whitman County. Whitman CD added a fifth supervisor, the first time since Josh was hired they had a full board. He discussed some of the district's projects including riparian restoration projects, utilizing high school student volunteer groups, obtaining grants to remove abandoned cars from streams, and fire recovery efforts.

Jennifer Boie started her presentation of Palouse CD by sharing the district had just finished a federal audit with no findings or recommendations. She spoke of the district's priorities, their success with NRCS and Ecology grants. She was proud of their new influx of metrics to track improvements through their volunteer Confluence Crew. She also shared the results of their Envirothon area competition and their introduction of "No Child Left Inside" in Whitman County.

Don Schwerin, supervisor at Walla Walla County CD, is new to the Walla Walla Board of Supervisors and was happy to just listen in.

### **Public Comment**

No one from the public wished to make a comment.

### **Introduction of Kirk Robinson**

Kirk Robinson was really wanting to embrace collaboration and was glad to see Jennifer's and Josh's programs highlighting that. Kirk shared details of the WSCC budget requests, their process to hire a new Executive Director through a consultant, and was glad to see so many volunteers and interest. He reported a new fiscal analyst started today. He was three weeks into the role and will serve until September.

### **Previous Meeting Minutes**

Ryan Baye explained why he records the name of any individual who abstains from a recorded vote in the meeting minutes, following a request from a board member after a previous meeting. He wanted to give the board the chance to alter his practice if it deemed it necessary. Lisa Zaborac moved to adopt the meeting minutes for the February board meeting, March work session, and March special board meeting. Second by Jerry Kolke. Motion carried.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Tom Salzer gave details to the Board of the three certificates of deposit purchased after the special meeting, and a transfer from Edward Jones to Wells Fargo to cover Executive Office operations through the remainder of the fiscal year.

Dave Fenn moved to adopt the LGIP resolution language and authorize the Executive Director to complete and submit the application to enroll in the Local Government Investment Pool. Second by Amy McKay Motion carried. Jeff Schibel moved to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. Second by Doug Rushton. Motion carried.

### **Dr. Allen Sutton Attending WADE**

Tom Salzer shared with the Board the request from WADE for Dr. Sutton to present at the WADE conference and for WACD to cover his honorarium and traveling expenses. Amy McKay moved to authorize up to \$2,500 for Dr. Allen Sutton's cost associated with speaking at the 2023 WADE Conference. Second by Mary Collins. Jennifer Boie offered a public comment in support of the motion, to the effect that "Dr. Sutton has worked with our staff for several years and is a real gem." Motion carried on a voice vote.

### **PMC Report**

Jim Brown reported the PMC generated \$1.7 million in sales so far, and was beginning their blow-out sale before turning off the cooler for the year. He noted there was \$1.2 million in expenses thus far, a \$200,000 increase over the previous year. Jim also shared with the board that Bill Mulder was retiring at the end of the month, having spent 17 years at the nursery, after spending a few months training his replacement. He answered questions about why there was IRS income tax for this year but not previous years and gave an update on the filing issues with the IRS.

### **Legislative Report**

WACD Lobbyist Brynn Brady joined the meeting to give a legislative report to the Board of Directors. She discussed the negotiating process for disputed bills, the two revenue proposals on the table, and what "necessary to implement the budget" meant. She answered a question regarding the minimum criteria for paying real estate excise taxes in Washington.

### **NACD Fly-In**

Doug Rushton presented on the NACD Fly-In as National Director. He reported how Washington's conservation partnership had 10 meetings with congressional delegation, between Representatives and staff. 7 attendees. Ryan Baye added his perspective as a first-time Fly-In attendee.

### **Annual Work Plan**

Tom Salzer shared with the board an updated annual work plan proposal based on feedback from the March meeting. He led the discussion with board members on the relative merits of adding a third Executive Office staff position.

### **WACD Annual Conference**

Ryan Baye presented a memo to the board outlining the recent pattern of Annual Conference venues and what qualifications would be required for a 2024 & 2025 Annual Conference site based on previous board decisions. He asked for approval to begin soliciting bids for the Board to consider later in the year. Doug Rushton moved to authorize staff to develop 2024 & 2025 conference proposals for a venue in Eastern Washington for the week after Thanksgiving, with a government per diem hotel rate, space up

to 125 attendees, and the ability to participate remotely. Second by Mary Collins. Motion carried. Ryan also shared with the board his idea of combining Annual Conferences with Idaho and/or Oregon in future years.

**Announcements**

Mike Mumford announced the Conservation Commission was holding its Annual Strategic Planning meeting in Benton County in May and encouraged attendance.

Meeting adjourned at 7:56.