

Washington Association of Conservation Districts

January 26, 2026

Summary of Motions

- **Motion:** Alan Chapman moved to adopt the agenda with the requested changes. Second by Cindy Reed. Motion carried.
- **Motion:** Jeff Schibel moved to accept and adopt the consent agenda. Second by Mike Mumford. Motion carried.
- **Motion:** Jeff Schibel moved to approve the amendment to the NRCS Cooperative Agreement. Second by Cindy Reed. Motion carried.
- **Motion:** Bruce McDonald moved to approve a one-time waiver to the board policy on the deadline for submitting reimbursement requests. Second by John Preston. Motion carried with an abstention by David Vliet.
- **Motion:** Alan Chapman moved to approve the WACD Legislative Day Priorities as presented. Second by David Vliet. Motion carried.
- **Motion:** Mike Mumford moved to approve the recommendation of the Ways and Means Committee. Second by Craig Nelson. Motion carried.

Washington Association of Conservation Districts

WACD Executive Office – Olympia, WA

Remote Connection through Zoom

January 26, 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)

Heather Smith, National Director (Grays Harbor CD)

Mike Mumford, Past President (Pend Oreille CD)

Alan Chapman, Northwest Area Director (Whatcom CD)

David Vliet, Northwest Area Director (Kitsap CD)

Bruce McDonald, Southwest Area Director (Lewis CD)

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

Cindy Reed, South Central Area Director (North Yakima CD)

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

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

Others Present

Tom Salzer, WACD Executive Director
Heather Wendt, WACD Deputy Director
John Knox, WACD Director of Nursery Operations
Ryan Baye, WACD Director of Legislative & Membership Services
Tammi Stubbs, WSCC Southeast Regional Manager
Kris Neely, Spokane CD Associate Supervisor
Josh Larson, Whitman CD District Manager
Jennifer Boie, Palouse CD Executive Director
Megan Stewart, Asotin County CD District Manager

Vice President Jeff Schibel called the meeting to order at 6 PM. Ryan Baye conducted a roll call of members present to confirm a quorum.

Adopting the Agenda

There were four requests to add to the draft agenda:

- Alan Chapman asked to list the Clallam CD Court Case on the agenda
- Bruce McDonald asked to list the topic of Lead Entity for SEPA on the agenda
- Ryan Baye asked to list an agenda item titled “Exemption for 30-day reimbursement limit”
- Heather Wendt asked to list two agenda items: NRCS Contract and Audit Update

Alan Chapman moved to adopt the agenda with the requested changes. Second by Cindy Reed. Motion carried.

Legislative Briefing

WACD Contract Lobbyist Brynn Brady joined the meeting and briefly discussed the major legislative topics in Olympia. She spoke to the bills on WACD’s radar, the supplemental budget, and a flurry of bills in the House and Senate Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee.

Southeast Area Focus

Josh Larsen presented for Whitman CD, sharing how the staff at his district increased from three to five in the last year as well as a crew to work on projects in the summer. He detailed the district’s main project of cleaning up a dump site with 40 tons of trash and car remains removed from a riparian area.

Megan Stewart presented for Asotin County CD, reporting on a wide array of projects but also the concerning drop in CREP projects in Asotin County. She celebrated the success of Asotin County CD running their own restoration crew, and their partnership with the local noxious weed board.

Jennifer Boie presented for Palouse CD, recapping the county wide CD annual meeting the week before. She also covered the district's interest in the proposed bill to ban CD ag land purchases, the district's FLOURISH program, and the success of the district to pass three audits the previous year.

Introduction of New Board Members

Elizabeth Bella shared she was a new supervisor to Underwood CD, having moved from Alaska with a background in vegetation ecology.

Cyndi Schaeffer shared her connection to the conservation district was working for the health department and getting to work on water quality issues with farmers and was also serving as Treasurer for Snohomish CD.

Consent Agenda

Jeff Schibel moved to accept and adopt the consent agenda. Second by Mike Mumford. Motion carried.

WACD Operations

John Knox updated the board on the harvest operations at the PMC. He answered questions about the decline in sales compared to previous years, the increase of district plant sales, and the possibility of reducing the minimum purchase limit to induce new customers.

Tom Salzer reported on the completion of the audit by Clark Nuber and the changes WACD staff were implementing, especially in IT security.

Heather Wendt presented an amendment to the NRCS Cooperative Agreement to add funds. Jeff Schibel moved to approve the amendment to the NRCS Cooperative Agreement. Second by Cindy Reed. Motion carried.

Ryan Baye requested a waiver to the board policy requirement limiting all reimbursement requests to 30 days after the event, that a board member had missed the deadline to submit a request after the December Board retreat in Airway Heights. Bruce McDonald moved to approve a one-time waiver to the board policy on the deadline for submitting reimbursement requests. Second by John Preston. Motion carried with an abstention by David Vliet.

WACD Advocacy

Ryan Baye presented a draft one pager on WACD's policy and budget priorities for the board's approval. There was a discussion about HB 2499 and its impact on conservation districts as well as details on how WACD was engaging with the bill sponsor. Alan Chapman moved to approve the WACD Legislative Day Priorities as presented. Second by David Vliet. Motion carried.

Ryan Baye also led the board on additional discussion regarding HB 2499, HB 2154, and the supplemental budget. There was a conversation amongst board members on the most concerning aspect of HB 2499. Ryan ended with an itinerary of planned Legislative Day activities for districts coming to Olympia.

WACD Committees

Heather Wendt updated the board on progress of the newly active Ways & Means Committee and the committee's recommendations regarding the ranking of WACD resolutions. Mike Mumford moved to approve the recommendation of the Ways and Means Committee. Second by Craig Nelson. Motion carried.

Tom Salzer shared that staff had been assigned to the new Workgroups/Task Forces from the adopted 2025 resolutions:

- Shellfish Aquaculture Practices Taskforce – Ryan Baye
- Ag Viability Taskforce – Heather Wendt
- CREP Taskforce – Ryan Baye
- WACD Funding Development Taskforce – Tom Salzer

Other Business/Announcements

Alan Chapman shared with the board the letter from Clallam to the Conservation Commission regarding the recent court case adjudicated against the Commission and the background to the court case.

Bruce McDonald inquired if other conservation districts in the state had experience as the lead agency on SEPA in the county.

Meeting adjourned at 8:42.