

**Washington Association of Conservation Districts**  
Remote Connection through Zoom  
August 16, 2021  
Board Work Session

**Board of Directors August Work Session Minutes**

Members Remotely Present

Jeanette Dorner, President (Pierce CD)  
Mike Mumford, Vice President (Pend Oreille CD)  
Amy McKay, Secretary (Whitman CD)  
Dave Fenn, Treasurer (Lewis 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 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)  
Amy Amerein, Southeast Area Director (Columbia 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  
Jim Brown, WACD PMC Nursery Manager  
Carol Smith, WSCC Executive Director  
Craig Nelson, Okanogan CD Executive Director  
Becky Drenner, Okanogan CD Finance Director  
Harold Crose, Grant County CD Associate Supervisor  
Kristina Ribellia, Grant County CD Assistant Manager

President Dorner called the meeting to order at 6:05, followed by introductions of those present.

**North Central Area Focus**

Harold Crose spoke to the success and accomplishments at Grant County CD: new staff, progress on VSP in both Grant and Adams County, clean-up of Moses Lake, work on their Odessa Aquifer project, and other activities. Kristina Ribellia introduced herself as the new Assistant Manager, and John Preston spoke to the hard work of the district.

Craig Nelson discussed the efforts in Okanogan and their current challenges: turnover in staff, 250,000 acres already burned in the county in 2021, and building a water bank pilot project. He spoke of the struggles with funding Firewise projects, and that the financing for such projects always came months after the interest among landowners had waned. He also shared some of Okanogan CD's concerns with the Conservation Commission's hiring process, followed by a discussion among those present.

### **SCC Strategic Plan**

Laura Meyer joined the meeting to present the Commission's draft strategic plan, with their current time to adopt goals and priorities. She added other details and the planned next steps in developing their 2022-2027 plan.

### **PMC Nursery Manager Report**

Jim Brown highlighted some early trends in the current growing season, with very strong sales and the conditions of the crop. He updated the board on the situation with the IRS and providing better internet access for the office.

### **Special Committee Reports**

Tom Salzer and Mark Craven recapped the Joint Committee on Election's statewide Zoom Q&A from the previous week and answered questions about the committee's timeline, presentation schedule, and future work to be done by the committee.

Tom Salzer, Jeanette Dorner, and Chris Porter provided an update on the progress of the DEI Special Committee.

### **Investment Policy**

Tom Salzer presented a template investment policy for the Board to consider as it reviews current policy. He answered questions regarding the current investment manager, the goal of the policy, the organizational funding of WACD staff positions, and next steps.

### **Search Committee Update**

Dean Longrie, as Chair of the Commission and head of their Search Committee process, provided his perspective of some of the comments made earlier and some of his own thoughts. There was additional discussion, ending with a request for additional feedback to be directed to him.

### **Annual Conference Update**

Ryan Baye presented on the current thinking of staff for the structure of the Annual Conference this year. He received feedback from the board members and discussed some of the challenges faced in planning both virtual and in-person events.

### **Associate Supervisor Award**

Dean Longrie and Ryan Baye spoke to a proposal creating a new WACD award recognizing an associate supervisor each year. They answered questions and expressed an interest in a vote at the September meeting to include the award in this year's award cycle.

### **Area Meeting Update**

Ryan Baye announced area meeting hosts, some of the meeting dates, and the likely structure for the events. He also reminded which area director positions were up for election this year and answered questions.

### **Announcements**

- Doug Rushton updated the board on the upcoming NACD Southwest and Pacific Regional meeting.
- Tom Salzer announced new NACD staff travel restrictions.
- Chris Porter announced King CD had hired a new Executive Director, Rosa Mendez-Perez.

- Jeanette Dorner announced the date for the release of Pierce CD's Executive Director Job Description.

Meeting adjourned at 8:29.