

Washington Association of Conservation Districts

Remote Connection through Zoom

September 19, 2022

Summary of Board Motions

- Alan Chapman moved to adopt the agenda, with four amendments. Second by Jack Clark. Motion carried.
 - Add a “Public Comment Period” agenda item after Area Focus.
 - Add “NACD Report” under Partner Updates
 - Rename “resolutions from non-member districts” to “resolutions from members not in good standing”
 - Include “Solar Panel Position Statement” under Area Meetings agenda item.
- Alan Chapman moved to adopt the board minutes, second by John Preston, with one typo change. Motion carried.
- Jeff Schibel moved to accept the financial statement. Second by David Iyall. Motion carried.
- David Iyall moved to provide \$5,000 in support to Envirothon. Second by Chris Porter. Motion carried.
- Chris Porter moved to reinstate the wildlife farmer and wildlife steward awards, and drop the 50-acre criteria for both awards. Second by Amy McKay. Friendly amendment by Cindy Pierce to create “small farmer”, “large farmer”, and steward awards. Motion carried.
- Alan Chapman moved to dedicate a facilitated session at the WACD Annual Conference to with an emphasis on responding to the questions asked from the August 2020 letter from Cowlitz and Wahkiakum CDs. Second by Amy McKay. Friendly amendment by Dave that a letter sent to those five districts that this is an attempt to satisfy those questions/respond to their concerns. Motion carried on a voice vote.

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Board of Directors Business Meeting Minutes

Members Remotely Present

Mike Mumford, President (Pend Oreille CD)

Amy McKay, Vice President (Whitman CD)

Dave Fenn, Treasurer (Lewis CD)

Doug Rushton, National Director (Thurston CD)

Jeanette Dorner, Past President (Pierce CD)

Alan Chapman, Northwest Area Director (Whatcom CD)

Chris Porter, Northwest Area Director (King CD)
Lisa Zaborac, Southwest Area Director (Grays Harbor CD)
David Iyall, Southwest Area Director (Thurston 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)
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
Chris Pettit, WSCC Executive Director
Nick Vira, NRCS State Partnership Liaison
Mike Tobin, North Yakima CD District Manager
Jennifer Boie, Palouse CD District Manager

President Mumford called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM. Ryan Baye took roll to confirm a quorum was present.

Adopt the Agenda

Alan Chapman moved to adopt the agenda, with four amendments. Second by Jack Clark. Motion carried.

- Add a “Public Comment Period” agenda item after Area Focus.
- Add “NACD Report” under Partner Updates
- Rename “resolutions from non-member districts” to “resolutions from members not in good standing”
- Include “Solar Panel Position Statement” under Area Meetings agenda item.

Area Focus

Jennifer Boie presented highlights from Palouse CD. She presented on several district issues including ag easements, education programs, retiring staff, and a recent staff DEI workshop. She answered questions about the districts’ success hiring a grant consultant.

Public Comment

No public comments were made.

Approving Previous Meeting Minutes

Alan Chapman moved to adopt the board minutes, second by John Preston, with one typo change. Motion carried.

Alan Chapman enquired as to the status of a letter authorized by the Board at the June meeting regarding permitting concerns for large-scale solar facilities. Mike Mumford and Mike Tobin shared WACD was waiting on information from North Yakima CD, but a draft position statement on solar panels was on the agenda for later in the evening.

Treasurer's Report

Dave Fenn covered Year-End Financials, the status of Edward Jones investments, and the status of WACD's budgeted expenses and revenue versus actual numbers. He also discussed the August financials and highlighted how far pre-sales were ahead of last year's figures at the same time. Chris Porter asked about the current interest rate of bonds versus the potential gains of stocks. Jeff Schibel moved to accept the financial statement. Second by David Iyall. Motion carried.

Envirothon Funding Request

Cindy Pierce requested \$5,000 for supporting the state Envirothon competition as well as sending the state winners to Ohio. She answered questions about the reasons behind the dollar amount, other outreach conducted, and potential corporate sponsorship ideas. David Iyall moved to provide \$5,000 in support to Envirothon. Second by Chris Porter. Motion carried.

WACD Area Meetings

Ryan Baye outlined the policy that caused WACD staff to withdraw the Wildlife Farmer and Wildlife Steward Awards, with the option that the Board could reinstate the awards. Chris Porter moved to reinstate the wildlife farmer and wildlife steward awards, and drop the 50-acre criteria for both awards. Second by Amy McKay. Friendly amendment by Cindy Pierce to create "small farmer", "large farmer", and steward awards. Motion carried.

Ryan Baye updated the board on the work done by the Livestock Task Force and the Harmful Algae Bloom Work Group. He also presented the work done to draft a solar panel position statement in response to a 2021 resolution, but found the most affected CDs were either opposed to solar facilities, encouraged solar facilities, or believed WACD and CDs should not take a position. He also shared the study being conducted by WSU to find a "least conflict option". He ended by sharing the draft position statement going out for comment at the area meetings.

Ryan Baye shared the two proposed bylaw changes identified by staff: Area Director eligibility being expanded to include managers and the name change for Columbia Basin CD. He answered questions about the process and how staff could gather feedback at area meetings before any formal proposal was discussed at the November meeting. There was discussion about the role of district supervisors versus employee, additional protection that would be required for employee board members, and the need to expand WACD's leadership to include the "best and brightest" whether they be supervisors or staff.

Ryan Baye continued by bringing forward an issue from last year's Annual Business Meeting, regarding resolutions from districts who had not paid dues. He shared WACD's bylaws don't

cover this potential scenario, but it is better to have the conversation before the area meetings than after in case any district chose not to pay dues but still wanted to bring forward a resolution. There was discussion about the privileges that paying dues provided to member-districts, how area associations operated separately from WACD, and what being a “member in good standing” meant. Mike Tobin from North Yakima CD offered a public comment that his district did not pay dues last year because they felt they weren’t being listened to and encouraged the WACD Board of Directors not to punish districts who are part of the family.

Update on Correspondence from districts

Alan Chapman and Amy McKay presented the outcome of their conversation with North Yakima’s board and the response (or lack thereof) from the other districts who signed the letter in May. Dave Fenn moved for Alan and Amy to work with staff in writing a response letter to Cowlitz and other districts. Be allowed to come up with a response to the questions raised in the 2020 letter. Second by Doug Rushton. Asking for staff’s opinion, Ryan Baye was concerned that trying to respond to the listed questions from 2020 would not be sufficient to satisfy the districts’ concern and Tom Salzer felt Alan and Amy (plus staff) were not a good cross-section of the Board. Lisa Zaborac believed a face-to-face meeting could bring a good resolution and that there is still frustration from the districts who signed onto the May letter. Dave Fenn withdrew his motion.

Alan Chapman moved to dedicate a facilitated session at the WACD Annual Conference to this topic with an emphasis on responding to the questions asked from the August 2020 letter. Second by Amy McKay. Friendly amendment by Dave that a letter sent to those five districts that this is an attempt to satisfy those questions/respond to their concerns. Motion carried on a voice vote.

WACD Annual Conference Update

Ryan Baye updated the board on the status of the 2022 Annual Conference, with a request for funding from the board to provide some promotional items and additional funding to recognize the 80th anniversary of WACD. Jeff Schibel moved to authorize up to \$10,000 for commemorative conference material. Second by Cindy Pierce. Motion carried with Chris Porter’s abstention.

Meeting adjourned at 9:14.