

## **Washington Association of Conservation Districts**

### Summary of January Board Actions

- John Preston moved to adopt the meeting's agenda as presented. Second by Jerry Kolke. Motion carried.
- Alan Chapman moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. Second by Barbara Bailey. Motion carried.
- Lisa Zaborac moved to adopt the 2023 legislative priorities as presented. Second by Doug Rushton. Motion carried.
- John McLean moved to approve the November and December board meeting minutes as presented. Second by Cindy Pierce. Motion carried.
- John McLean moved to authorize travel to the NACD Annual Conference for Larry Davis. Second by John Floyd. Motion carried on a voice vote.
- Jerry Kolke moved to create a Shared Resources Task Force and for it to report back at the June Board meeting. Second by John McLean. Motion carried.

## **Washington Association of Conservation Districts**

Remote Connection through Zoom

January 23, 2023

Board Meeting Minutes

### Members Remotely Present

Mike Mumford, President (Pend Oreille CD)

Barbara Bailey, Secretary (Underwood 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)

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  
Ron Shultz, WSCC Policy Director  
Dave Edwards, Whidbey Island CD Supervisor  
Brandy Reed, Whatcom CD Executive Director

President Mumford called the meeting to order at 6:00. John Preston moved to adopt the meeting's agenda as presented. Second by Jerry Kolke. Motion carried. No member of the public entered a comment.

Dave Edwards presented for Whidbey Island CD. Wayne Reid "Young Tiger" Award winner Gary Ketcheson was re-elected to their board. They were proud of the record plant sale pre-sales. He shared details of their district's DEI education process with both the staff and the board, "building a trauma-informed approach".

Brandy Reed spoke on behalf of Whatcom CD. Really big year in 2022, including a massive lift to secure rates and charges in the county. They were looking at a strategic planning process for 2023 and a more reasonable workload. They had a successful grant program with the SCC on disaster relief after the 2021 floods and received funding through the salmon recovery program to plant 40 acres.

Alan Chapman presented for the other NW area district, having hoped to see more district participation at the meeting. He reported San Juan Islands CD was interested in biochar efforts and on Snohomish CD's new construction. There was also a theme across the area where many districts were suffering from a lack of accounting staff.

Cindy Pierce presented on behalf of Skagit CD. Their Storm Team was going out and doing water sampling after storms to monitor shellfish bed water quality; they were honored by state health department and Taylor Shellfish. Skagit's incentive riparian program proviso generated a recommended list of programmatic changes. She reported Firewise and forest health projects were in high demand. Skagit also just concluded their first ever board and staff retreat with lots of goals set for 2023. She was very sad to see their district manager Bill Blake would be retiring at the end of the fiscal year.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Dave Fenn reported at the end of December there was \$1.8 million in the Edward Jones investment account, having lost \$210,000 in value over the course of 2023. He wanted to explore rolling some savings into CDs, the savings accounts at WACD's two banks were less than .2%. Expenses were normal at the halfway point of the budget year. Dave also reported to the board that the CPA had concluded sales to non-members couldn't be counted as tax-exempt. He answered questions about affiliate membership and the conservative approach of the Board's investment policy. Jim Brown was present and answered questions about hard-to-find

plants, with high demand meaning CDs were facing sold out stocks and how the PMC operated on a first come-first serve basis. Alan Chapman moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. Second by Barbara Bailey. Motion carried.

### **WACD Legislative Priorities**

WACD Lobbyist Brynn Brady joined the call and outlined the legislative priorities she saw occurring during the session. She also described the impact of the legislature returning in-person. She answered questions about riparian buffer proposals, potential budget forecasts, and her conversations with legislators about district elections. Ron Shultz mentioned the Commission's deliberations at their meeting the previous week. Ryan Baye presented the draft priorities and the background for the policy and budget decisions. There was additional discussion on HB 1215. Lisa Zaborac moved to adopt the 2023 legislative priorities as presented. Second by Doug Rushton. Motion carried.

### **Meeting Minutes**

John McLean moved Nov & December minutes. Second by Cindy Pierce. Motion carried.

### **NACD Travel Authorization**

Tom Salzer informed the Board of the opportunity to send an additional attendee to WACD, that National Director Doug Rushton and himself are authorized to go and authorized attendee Alternate National Director Wade Troutman's costs were covered by a third party. He asked for permission to deviate from the budget to cover the cost of sending Larry Davis to the NACD Annual Conference on WACD's time. John McLean moved to authorize travel to the NACD Annual Conference for Larry Davis. Second by John Floyd. Motion carried on a voice vote.

### **Annual Conference**

Ryan Baye presented the results from the post-conference survey to the Board, the financial impact, and a list of lessons learned. He also discussed initial planning for 2023's Annual Conference and answered questions about the timeline for developing 2024 conference proposals.

### **2023 Resolutions**

Ryan Baye went through the adopted resolutions with the board, the five-year sunset clause policy and how staff was incorporating new resolutions. He also opined on how the board sets prioritization of the 60-odd resolutions approved by the membership. He ended with a request to move forward with the Shared Resources Task Force with a June 30 report date, as per one of the 2022 resolutions. Jerry Kolke moved to create a Shared Resources Task Force and for it to report back at the June Board meeting. Second by John McLean. Motion carried.

### **DEI Session Follow-up**

Tom Salzer shared his discussions with Annual Conference presenter Allen Sutton and Dr. Sutton's proposed additional work for WACD, seeking comment from the board members

present for additional guidance. He answered questions about the potential format, the HEAL Act's impact on districts, and cost.

### **Announcements**

John McLean announced a Local Work Group kick-off meeting in Ellensburg and encouraged attendance or sending comments to local Chairs.

Ryan Baye provided an update on recruitment of the Southeast and South Central Area Director vacancies.

Doug Rushton detailed his preparation on the resolutions he would advocate for at the NACD Annual conference, making editorial changes in consultation with the sponsoring districts.

Mike Mumford and Jeff Schibel provided an update to the Board on correspondence between Lincoln County CD and the State Conservation Commission.

President Mumford adjourned the meeting at 8:11.