



Washington Association of Conservation Districts

Board of Directors Meeting

Monday • November 28, 2016 • 11 am - 3 pm and 5 pm - 6 pm

San Juan Ballroom and Stars Room • Semiahmoo Resort

Blaine, WA

MOTIONS

- Motion by Jerry Hendrickson to move the September 2016 minutes and treasurer's report until later in the meeting. The motion received a second and passed.
- David Guenther moved that the September 2016 minutes as presented be approved. Mark Moore seconded and the motion passed. Eddie Johnson opposed.
- A motion was made by Jerry Hendrickson to hold approval of the treasurer's report until the February Board meeting. Motion received a second and passed.
- At 12:10 p.m., President Mark Craven announced that the meeting would enter into executive session for thirty minutes. At 12:40 p.m., President Craven announced to the public that the executive session would be extended by 15 minutes. After the executive session concluded at 12:55 p.m., Eddie Johnson moved to resume the general session at 1:00 p.m. Jerry Hendricksen seconded and the motion passed.
- At 2:56 p.m., President, Mark Craven moved to table the bylaws discussion and hear the Partner reports. The motion received a second and passed.
- With Board agenda items still to be discussed, the Board meeting was recessed until 5:00 p.m. to reconvene in the Stars Room. At 5:00 p.m., President Mark Craven called the Board meeting back into session.
- A motion was made by Dave Guenther to approve the proposed 2017 Board of Directors meeting dates to be: 2/13/2016 from Noon to 5 pm (at Hotel RL, Olympia); 6/13/2016 or 6/20/2016 at Exec Director's discretion (from 10 am - 4 pm at Hal Holmes Center in Ellensburg); 9/19/2016 or 9/26/2016 at Exec Director's discretion (from 10 am - 4 pm at Hal Holmes Center in Ellensburg); and 11/27/2016 from 11 am to 5 pm (at Springhill Suites, Kennewick). Doug Rushton seconded and the motion passed.

- A motion was made by Dean Longrie to amend the two possible June 2017 Meeting Dates to 6/20/2016 or 6/27/2016 at Exec Director's discretion (from 10 am - 4 pm at Hal Holmes Center in Ellensburg). Motion was seconded and passed.
- A motion was made by Dean Longrie to accept the Bylaws as amended and send the report on to the membership for approval consideration. The motion was seconded by Jeanette Dorner and passed. Eddie Johnson and John Mclean opposed.
- Michael Crowder, National Director, motioned Doug Rushton as the National Director alternate. Jerry Hendrickson seconded and the motion passed.
- A motion was made by Larry Davis to adjourn the meeting. The motion received a second and passed. The meeting was declared adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Board of Directors Present

Mark Craven, President
 Tom Miller, Vice-President
 Alan Stromberger, Past President
 Larry Davis, Secretary-Treasurer
 Michael Crowder, National Director
 John Floyd, NE Area Director
 Jerry Hendrickson, SE Area Director
 Doug Rushton, SW Area Director
 Dick Ryon, NW Area Director

John Preston, NC Area Director
 John McLean, NC Area Director
 Mark Moore, SC Area Director
 David Guenther, SC Area Director
 Eddie Johnson, NE Area Director
 Jeanette Dorner, NW Area Director
 Karen Bishop, WADE President
 Steve Hallstrom, SW Area Director

Board Members Unable to Attend

Vacant, SE Area Director

Others in attendance for all or part of the meeting

Mark Clark, WSCC
 Wendy Pare, Skagit CD
 Monte Marti, Snohomish CD
 Tanna Engdahl, Clark CD
 Wade Troutman, Foster Creek CD

Roylene Rides at the Door, NRCS
 Ryan Mello, Pierce CD
 Lynn Engdahl, Clark CD
 Jim Jesernig, WACD Consultant
 Ron Schulz, WSCC

WACD Staff Present

Robert Schroeter, Executive Director
 Candra Grimm, Legislative and Membership Assistant
 Jim Brown, PMC Manager

MINUTES

President Mark Craven called the business meeting to order at 11:05 a.m. There were introductions around the room.

WACD Business

Motion by Jerry Hendrickson to move the September 2016 minutes and treasurer's report until later in the meeting. The motion received a second and passed. At 11:47 a.m., David Guenther moved that the September 2016 minutes as presented be approved. Mark Moore seconded and the motion passed. Eddie Johnson opposed.

WACD Legislative Budget Approach

At 11:10 a.m., Jim Jesernig made a presentation about which legislators are specifically expected to be in a position to affect decisions about the budget in 2017. He illustrated the “assignments” to be made of districts for contact with these legislators to secure support. Jim spoke about the 2016 election season at the national, state, and local district levels. WACD and Jim have met with the Office of Financial Management leadership to discuss funding levels in 2017. The 2017 session starts on January 9th. The Governor will release his budget by December 20, 2016, and we will all be ready to decide what to focus on during this session.

WACD’s emphasis begins with a “protect the base; build the base” strategy, that is, protecting against reductions in state operating and capital budget funding while seeking to secure increases in both categories based on conservation services needs and demand from landowners and producers. The strategy recognizes the importance of district supervisors educating their legislators about promises made and promises kept – districts getting results on time and on budget with conservation appropriations – and showing legislators and the Governor’s office how the demand for district services continues to expand, using specific examples (livestock, stormwater, forest health, etc.) around which a “build the base” increase in funding can be constructed later. This will be a critical part of taking the WACD strategy beyond a “protect the base” approach.

The continuation of the Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP) provides opportunities to demonstrate landowner need and increased demands for services by districts. Jim requests that conservation districts give specific details to their legislators about the impacts they are making with programs like the VSP.

Treasurer’s Report/ Executive Committee Report – Larry Davis, Secretary-Treasurer

Larry Davis thanked Jeanette Dorner for coming onto the Board and for David Guenther returning to the Board. He thanked Lori McLaughlin for helping with administrative work this year. Bob Schroeter, WACD Executive Director, identified the districts that have not paid dues. Larry Davis reported that current year finances are up to date through October 2016. He said we have no need to touch reserves and will be close to breaking even. Larry clarified that during the annual meeting

business session, the Board approves the final budget for the prior fiscal year. David Guenther thanked Larry for his work in the treasurer's position and asked when we would see the current budget. Larry Davis announced that the current year budget is a work in progress to reflect the changes approved by the Board in September 2016. Larry expects the current year, fully amended budget will be presented at the Board meeting on February 13, 2017 at the Hotel Red Lion in Olympia.

A motion was made by Jerry Hendrickson to hold approval of the treasurer's report until the February Board meeting. Motion received a second and passed.

Plant Materials Center (PMC) Report – Jim Brown, Manager

Jim Brown gave a brief report on the PMC background and said fiscal sales are on track. He said the expenses are within normal variances. The increase of minimum wage will affect the PMC at a rate of a 10% increase. The PMC bought a new tractor in June of 2016 for \$87,000 that was paid for out of net revenues from last year. The total net revenue last year was \$93,000.

Nominating Committee Report – Mark Craven, Chair

Mark Craven announced that the nominating committee will meet at 3 p.m. and the report presented later on the agenda.

Executive Session

At 12:10 p.m., President Mark Craven announced that the meeting would enter into executive session for thirty minutes to discuss personnel matters. At 12:40 p.m., President Craven announced to the public that the executive session would be extended by 15 minutes. After the executive session concluded at 12:55 p.m., Eddie Johnson moved to resume the general session at 1:00 p.m. Jerry Hendricksen seconded and the motion passed.

2015 Status Update: Area Resolutions & Assignment of 2016 Area Resolutions to Committees

Bob Schroeter updated the board on the status of each 2015 area resolution. He also referred to the resolutions committee assignments document in the Board meeting packet and briefly reviewed the committee assignments for 2016 area resolutions.

Bylaws Committee Report – Alan Stromberger, Chair

Alan Stromberger stated that there were 61 pages of bylaws in the Board packet since the committee asked for proposed changes to the WACD Bylaws in September and would like to approve them as a committee today. Alan mentioned that Larry Davis was the drafter of the proposed bylaws changes. Larry said that discussion of the proposed bylaws changes on pages 1-27 of the packet was necessary now for potential membership action on Wednesday. Larry further

stated that Board action on the proposed policy changes on pages 28-61 could be tabled until the Board meets again in February. Larry began explaining the proposed bylaws changes to the Board.

The most significant changes relate to:

- Splitting the role of the Secretary/Treasurer into stand-alone Secretary and Treasurer positions on the Board.
- Board officer term lengths and possibility of alternates when needed.
- Plant Material Center Administrative Committee role in WACD.
- Creating a Finance Committee.
- All the WACD committee timeframes (e.g. temporary, standing, or permanent).

At 2:56 p.m., President, Mark Craven moved to table the bylaws discussion and hear the Partner reports. The motion received a second and passed.

Partner Reports

NRCS – Roylene Rides at the Door, State Conservationist

- Conservation Stewardship Program Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) coding changes were discussed and outlined.
- CRM Plan requirements for an EQIP contract were outlined.
- The conservation management focus has been on Salmon and Soil. This year we asked for nutrient management funding and have applications worth \$3 M in the system.
- \$11 M conservation easements they are going to deliver.
- Our state has the largest Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) in the nation and NRCS is hiring 11 new staff members to run that program.
- The Yakama Nation is going to have assistance from 7 of our planners to discuss local area-nutrients management.

WACC – Ron Schulz, Policy Director

- We are working with the Office of Financial Management and the WACD on the upcoming 2017 legislative session budget request.
- Our agency relationship with other agencies has been making great progress.
- Ron is familiar with the WA Department of Natural Resources Commissioner of Public Lands, Hilary Franz.
- Ron's plan when meeting with other agencies is to explain how our programs work and to show other people how are voluntary system is making a difference on the ground.

With Board agenda items still to be discussed, the Board meeting was recessed until 5:00 p.m. to reconvene in the Stars Room.

At 5:00 p.m., President Mark Craven called the Board meeting back into session.

2016 Strategic Plan Update

Bob Schroeter referred to the strategic plan in the members' packets. He said that after an inventory of the WACD office in Tumwater, we may be purchasing \$2,400 worth of supplies. If anyone needs to talk to Bob about the purchasing, he will be available anytime. Bob also talked about the status of moving WACD office headquarters to a possible downtown Olympia location, as noted and approved by the Board at September's meeting, but the move will not occur prior to February's Board meeting.

2017 Proposed Board of Director Meeting Dates

Bob Schroeter referred board members to the schedule of proposed 2017 board of director meeting dates found in their meeting packets.

A motion was made by Dave Guenther to approve the proposed 2017 Board of Directors meeting dates to be: 2/13/2016 from Noon to 5 pm (at Hotel RL, Olympia); 6/13/2016 or 6/20/2016 at Exec Director's discretion (from 10 am - 4 pm at Hal Holmes Center in Ellensburg); 9/19/2016 or 9/26/2016 at Exec Director's discretion (from 10 am - 4 pm at Hal Holmes Center in Ellensburg); and 11/27/2016 from 11 am to 5 pm (at Springhill Suites, Kennewick). Doug Rushton seconded and the motion passed.

A motion was made by Dean Longrie to amend the two possible June 2017 Meeting Dates to 6/20/2016 or 6/27/2016 at Exec Director's discretion (from 10 am - 4 pm at Hal Holmes Center in Ellensburg). Motion was seconded and passed.

There was consensus understanding that the Executive Director would determine which dates in June and September subject to facility availability.

2018 WACD Annual Conference Locations

Bob Schroeter reminded everyone to think about locations for the 2018 WACD Annual Conference. Locations mentioned were a resort or venue located in the Central Washington. A member of the public at the Board meeting asked the Board to determine a 2018 location as soon as possible.

Bylaws Amendment Discussion Continued

Jeanette Dorner asked for clarification between the Plant Materials Center (PMC) committee and the finance committee.

Michael Crowder clarified that the Board is asking to create a finance committee that all WACD finance matters will go through. He said any budget needs to be prepared in conjunction with the finance committee for all WACD matters.

Eddie Johnson said that as the bylaws and policies are being worked we should retain the 2/3 vote requirement to amend the bylaws, as that is better than a small majority.

A motion was made by Dean Longrie to accept the Bylaws as amended and send the report on to the membership for approval consideration. The motion was seconded by Jeanette Dorner and passed. Eddie Johnson and John Mclean; opposed.

Michael Crowder, National Director, motioned Doug Rushton as the National Director alternate. Jerry Hendrickson seconded and the motion passed.

A bylaws revisions document, reflecting Board action, will be printed available at the registration desk with the resolutions on Tuesday, November 29, 2016 at 9 p.m.

Other Board Business

A member from Franklin Conservation District announced that the 2016 PMC bonuses paid to PMC permanent employees were against the bylaws. A transaction between the PMC and our bylaws need to be cross referenced with the PMC policy manual as it explains how transactions occur.

Eddie Johnson said that the PMC bonuses were included in the budget, although it was not specified or detailed for the Board at the approval meeting.

Larry Davis recommends to the Board that all personnel matters go through the Executive Director of WACD.

David Guenther said to speak to John Floyd about Natural Resource outreach funding opportunities.

Doug Rushton gave a brief report on the NACD Forestry Resource Policy Group. He has spent the past six years on the committee and they are currently working on the strategic plan.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Larry Davis to adjourn the meeting. The motion received a second and passed. The meeting was declared adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Candra Grimm
WACD Legislative and Membership Assistant
Recording Secretary