

## Washington Association of Conservation Districts

The Olympia Center - Olympia

January 22, 2020

Summary of Board Actions

- **Motion:** Doug Rushton moves to approve the board agenda as presented. Second by Dean Longrie. Motion carried.
- **Motion:** Cindy Reed moves approve the December Board Meeting with the correction of recognizing of NW Area Director Libby Reed as an attendee and the inclusion of the word "only" in paragraph four in the section on Proposed Bylaw Changes. Second by Jeff Schibel. Motion carried.
- **Motion:** Doug Rushton moves to increase the travel budget by \$1,000 for the purpose of funding Larry Davis attending the NACD Annual Conference. Second by John Keatley. Motion carried.

## Washington Association of Conservation Districts

The Olympia Center – Olympia  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
January 22, 2020

### Members Present (or present by telephone)

Jeanette Dorner, President (Pierce CD)  
Javier Lopez, Vice President (South Yakima CD)  
Amy McKay, Secretary (Whitman CD)  
Dave Fenn, Treasurer (Lewis CD)  
Doug Rushton, National Director (Thurston CD)  
Mark Craven, Past President (Snohomish CD)  
Alan Chapman, Northwest Area Director (Whatcom CD)  
Libby Reed, Northwest Area Director (Snohomish CD)  
Dean Longrie, Southwest Area Director (Clark CD)  
John Keatley, Southwest Area Director (Cowlitz CD)  
John Preston, North Central Area Director (Grant County CD)  
John McLean, North Central Area Director (Foster Creek 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)  
Ryan Palmateer, WADE Vice President (San Juan Islands CD)

### Others Present

Tom Salzer, WACD Executive Director  
Ryan Baye, WACD Legislative & Membership Assistant  
Lori McLaughlin, WACD Financial Accountant & HR Administrator  
Carol Smith, WSCC Executive Director  
Nick Vira, NRCS Partnership Liaison  
Larry Davis, Whatcom CD Supervisor  
Clayton Smith, Snohomish CD Associate Supervisor

Jeanette Dorner called the meeting to order at 9:03. Ryan Baye conducted a roll call of the members and guests present.

**Doug Rushton moved to approve the agenda as presented. Second by Dean Longrie. Motion carried.**

**Cindy Reed moved to approve the December Board meeting minutes as presented. Second by Jeff Schibel.** Ryan Baye thanked Barbara Bailey for catching an error in his minutes, asked for a correction in the official minutes. Libby Reed pointed out she was at the December meeting but it was not noted in the minutes. The two corrections were incorporated into the motion. **The December Board meeting minutes were adopted with the correction of**

**recognizing of NW Area Director Libby Reed as an attendee and the inclusion of the word “only” in paragraph four in the section on Proposed Bylaw Changes.**

Treasurer’s Report

Newly elected Treasurer Dave Fenn is still learning the ins and outs of the position. He shared one comment he learned about regarding taxable income made from sales to CD member districts coming back to WACD from the IRS and how IRS likely issued two reimbursements by mistake.

Lori McLaughlin reported that cashflow for the PMC will start to pick-up in the next month, the Executive Office will be receiving revenue from our Commission and NRCS contracts. She also answered a question about the potential overage in the Executive Office salary line-item.

Dean Longrie complimented Jim Brown on his weekly reports.

Approval for Exceeding NACD Travel Line-Item

Ryan Baye explained to the Board that Larry Davis had requested financial support to attend the NACD Annual Conference. With a new Executive Director and in the absence of policy, Ryan felt the decision to exceed the limits of the budget should be made by the board. Larry serves as NACD Tribal Relations RPG Chair and serves on two other committees meeting during the conference, so there would be a benefit to Washington with Larry’s attendance.

**Doug Rushton moves to increase the travel budget by \$1,000 for the purpose of funding Larry Davis attending the NACD Annual Conference. Second by John Keatley. Motion carried.**

Plant Materials Center

Jim Brown recapped his written report submitted to the board. He also answered questions regarding an IRS refund believed to be made in errors.

WACD Annual Conference Report

Ryan Baye outlined the outcomes in the 2019 Annual Conference survey results. There were forty respondents to the survey and the average satisfaction rating was 4 out of 5. He highlighted some of the takeaways to incorporate in next year’s planning. He answered questions about providing information outside of conference events to non-participants and fielded proposals from the board.

Ryan next highlighted the financial aspect of the conference, that WACD came in well under budget in revenue and went over budget in its expenses. He expanded on explanations for the reasons why the differences and how WACD can prevent a recurrence of a budget shortfall.

The third portion of his presentation was asking the board to provide guidance as to criteria for selecting future conference sites. He fielded comments on a disparate number of topics, with an eventual consensus that a decision was not possible at the time.

There was a break from 10:20 to 10:30

#### Partner Reports

Nick Vira reported on NRCS State Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) and Tribal STAC meetings, the hiring of a new Eastern Area Conservationist, the progress of the Regional Conservation Partnership Program, and the implementation of new processes to hire staff. He answered questions on RCPP verification, the new Conservation Assessment Ranking Tool, and other NRCS programs.

Doug Rushton reported on upcoming NACD events: their Annual Conference and the March Congressional Fly-In.

Ryan Palmateer shared there is an expected ownership change at their WADE Conference location which may affect future conferences. He highlighted that author David Montgomery would be their keynote speaker.

#### 2020 Legislative Session Recap

WACD Lobbyist Brynn Brady reported on the current activities in the legislative session. She also spoke of actions available to districts wishing to contact their legislators and her prediction on future legislative action.

Officers and Area Directors then shared their experiences from the previous day's legislative session.

There was a break from 12:00 to 12:30 for lunch

#### Additional Partner Reports

Carol Smith spoke of new hires at the Conservation Commission, some of their concerns preceding the Congressional Fly-In, and the initial work on FY2021 decision-packages.

#### Area Director Reports

John Keatley reported on outcomes from the SW Area Meeting and their motion that WACD adopt a strategic plan.

John Preston shared Grant County CD signed a MoU with Adams County to implement their VSP program.

John McLean commented on the first days of the new Executive Director.

#### Tom's First Six Months

Tom Salzer spoke of his first few days as Executive Director and some of his initial thoughts on association advocacy, communications, internal policies, planning, and other programs he was

considering in a six-month plan. He answered questions from board members and fielded comments on his written plan.

Jeanette Dorner adjourned the meeting at 2:04.