



Washington State Conservation Commission

Meeting Packet

September 16, 2021

****Held virtually due to COVID-19****

Lacey, WA, 98503

*“To conserve natural resources on all lands in Washington,
in collaboration with conservation districts and partners.”*

Business Meeting

****Held virtually due to COVID-19****

Time

Please note that the times listed below are estimated and may vary. [Please visit the SCC website for the most up-to-date meeting information.](#)

Meeting accommodations

Persons with a disability needing an accommodation to participate in SCC public meetings should call Stephanie Crouch at 360-407-6211, or call 711 relay service. All accommodation requests should be received no later than Tuesday, September 7, to ensure preparations are appropriately made.

Meeting Coordinates

At 8:30 a.m. on September 16, 2021, please log into the meeting using [this link](#). You may use your computer audio, or dial into the meeting using the information provided after logging in. SCC staff requests that you self-mute your audio line to allow for full discussion by Commissioners.

Public Comment

Public Comment will be allowed prior to the beginning of all action topics. Comments will be limited to three (3) minutes per comment.

Agenda

TIME	TAB	ITEM	LEAD
8:30 a.m.		Call to order/Welcome/Introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pledge of Allegiance• Additions/Corrections to agenda items	Chairman Longrie
8:40 a.m.	1.	Consent Agenda – call for public comment (Action) <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. July 15, 2021 draft meeting minutes	Chairman Longrie
8:45 a.m.	1.	District Operations – call for public comment (Action) <ul style="list-style-type: none">b. 2022 SCC Meeting locationsc. Cultural Resources Policy updated. Benton CD mid-term supervisor appointmente. Palouse CD election certification	Shana Joy Jean Fike Commissioner Crose Bill Eller
9:30 a.m.	1.	Commission Operations – call for public comment (Action)	

	f. Governance sub-committee report	Shana Joy
	g. Area member election process for 2021	Ron Shultz
	h. SCC Interim Executive Director – approve	Chairman Longrie
10:15 a.m. – BREAK		
10:30 a.m.	1. Commission Operations – call for public comment <i>(Action)</i>	
	i. Strategic Planning	Laura Meyer
11:00 a.m.	1. District Operations – call for public comment <i>(Action)</i>	
	j. Report and Recommendations from the Joint Committee on Elections	Ron Shultz & Laura Meyer
11:45 a.m.	1. Policy & Programs – call for public comment <i>(Action)</i>	
	k. Rulemaking process approval for public records	Ron Shultz
	l. Rulemaking process approval for investigations	
12:00 p.m. – LUNCH		
1:00 p.m.	2. Budget <i>(Information)</i>	
	a. Fiscal year-end update	Sarah Groth
	b. Returned funds update	
1:30 p.m.	2. District Operations <i>(Information)</i>	
	c. Regional Manager Report	Josh Giuntoli
	d. Center for Technical Development report	Packet Item
1:45 p.m.	2. Policy and Programs <i>(Information)</i>	
	e. VSP Five-year report update	Packet Item
1:50 p.m.	2. Partner Updates <i>(Information)</i>	
	f. National Association of Conservation Districts	
	g. Natural Resources Conservation Service	Packet Item
	h. Washington Association of Conservation Districts	
2:00 p.m.	2. Commission Operations <i>(Information)</i>	
	i. Nominating committee for chair and vice-chair	Chairman Longrie
	• General Update	Dir. Smith
2:30 p.m.	Celebrating Carol Smith’s Retirement	Chairman Longrie
3:00 p.m. - ADJOURN		

TAB 1

Regular Business Meeting

The Washington State Conservation Commission (Commission/SCC) met virtually on July 15, 2021. Chairman Longrie called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Dean Longrie, *Chairman and elected west region rep.*
Harold Crose, *Vice-chairman and elected central region rep.*
Perry Beale, *Department of Agriculture*
Larry Cochran, *elected eastern region rep.*
Jeanette Dorner, *Washington Association of Conservation Districts*
Jim Kropf, *Washington State University*
David Giglio, *Department of Ecology*
Sarah Spaeth, *Governor Appointee*
Daryl Williams, *Governor Appointee*

COMMISSION STAFF PRESENT

Carol Smith, *Executive Director*
Mike Baden, *Northeast Regional Manager*
Allisa Carlson, *South Central Regional Manager*
Brian Cochrane, *Habitat & Monitoring Coordinator*
Stephanie Crouch, *Administrative Assistant*
Kate Delavan, *Office of Farmland Preservation Coordinator*
Lori Gonzalez, *Executive Assistant*
Josh Giuntoli, *Southwest Regional Manager*
Sarah Groth, *Fiscal Manager*
Alison Halpern, *Policy Assistant*
Laura Meyer, *Communications Coordinator*
Shana Joy, *District Operations Manager*
Levi Keesecker, *Natural Resources Scientist*
Ron Shultz, *Policy Director*

PARTNERS REPRESENTED

Ryan Baye, *WA Association of Conservation Districts*
Roylene Comes At Night, *USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service*
Sherre Copeland, *US Forest Service*
Michael Kuttel, Jr., *WA State Department of Fish and Wildlife*
Angela Reseland, *WA State Department of Fish and Wildlife*
Doug Rushton, *National Association of Conservation Districts*
Tom Salzer, *WA Association of Conservation Districts*

GUESTS ATTENDED

Please see "**Attachment A**" for full list of attendees.

Consent Agenda (Action)

Draft May 20, 2021 meeting minutes

Motion by Commissioner Cochran to approve the May 20, 2021 Meeting Minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Crose. Motion carries.

Budget and Finance (Action)

2022 Supplemental Budget Requests

Chairman Longrie welcomes Sarah Groth, SCC Fiscal Manager to share the next agenda item. Ms. Groth explains that the SCC is requesting approval for three 2022 supplemental budget packages. Supplemental budget package requests are for new or additional funds in the existing biennium, funding should be for items that are extraordinary or unexpected. These packages are listed below:

Operating:

Conservation Equity and Engagement - not to exceed \$500,000

1. **Secure a contract for an equity assessment of the SCC, including programs and services, to identify opportunities.** This will enable the SCC to better assess and deliver their statutory duty to meet the “pressing need for the conservation of renewable resources in all areas of the state, whether urban, suburban, or rural” and ensure that “the benefits of resource practices, programs, and projects, as carried out by the state conservation commission and by the conservation districts, should be available to all such areas.” The assessment will help us identify and overcome potential unintended barriers that impact our ability to fulfill this duty.

Based on assessment results, the contractor also would work with staff to identify potential actions to include/prioritize as we implement our 2022-2027 long-range strategic plan (currently under development).

Estimated cost: \$50,000-\$75,000

2. **Support conservation districts seeking more capacity to reach communities who are under-resourced.** CDs would be eligible to submit proposals to a new small grant program to fund efforts including, but not limited to: translating materials into other languages and/or for the visually or hearing-impaired; building relationships with under-resourced communities; improving web/electronic accessibility; providing access to DEI trainings (e.g. state required foundational trainings); taking cultural competency trainings (e.g., Veterans Cultural Competency Training, Government-to-Government/State-Tribal Relations); or partnership-building/outreach (e.g., efforts to engage/serve beginning and underrepresented farmers).

This mini grant program supports several aspects of our developing 2022-2027 Strategic Plan, including our work to build conservation district capacity and assist them in complying with legal requirements, such as those related to web and IT accessibility.

Estimated cost: \$350,000-\$425,000

The total estimated request for this package is not to exceed \$500,000.

Sustainable Farms and Fields - not to exceed \$2,000,000

The bill for the Sustainable Farms and Fields program passed last year with strong bipartisan support and overwhelming enthusiasm and interest by both the agricultural and environmental communities. Unfortunately, the COVID outbreak and the economic uncertainty that followed meant that SCC did not request funding for the FY21-23 biennium. The SCC has been working with their climate/agricultural advocacy partners, the Governor’s Office, WACD/NACD, and NRCS to explore federal funding opportunities through USDA and the proposed American Jobs Plan. They are also exploring potential private-public partnerships to jumpstart SFF. With climate mitigation a top priority at the state and federal levels, the SCC is seeking a modest amount of state funding for FY23 to implement this voluntary incentive program to help eager producers implement climate-smart practices as quickly as possible.

Capital:

FarmPAI - not to exceed \$2,000,000

The Farmland Protection and Affordability Investment (FarmPAI) Program is a proposed program to support protection of high priority agricultural land at imminent risk of development. This critical and necessary program supports Washington farmers and keeps land in production. The program also facilitates land access to

underserved producers including young and beginning farmers, people of color, and veterans. FarmPAI's revolving low interest loan program for fee simple land acquisition would be managed by the Washington State Housing Finance Commission with the Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC) acting as a program advisor.

Supplemental budget funds are necessary as FarmPAI's success requires ready sources of conservation easement funding to permanently protect the land and make it affordable for the next generation farmer. The WSCC's agricultural conservation easements program is a strategic complement to FarmPAI in alignment with the Office of Farmland Preservation statutory goals (RCW 89.10.010). The WSCC is requesting Commission authorization to request up to \$2,000,000 for the easement account (RCW 89.08.540) through the supplemental budget. These costs could not have been anticipated at the time the agency biennial budget was developed as the program is under development.

Motion by Commissioner Dorner to approve the three budget packages for further development and submittal to Office of Financial Management by the deadline of September 13, 2021 as listed below. Seconded by Commissioner Williams. Motion carries.

Operating:

- *Conservation Equity and Engagement - not to exceed \$500,000*
- *Sustainable Farms and Fields - not to exceed \$2,000,000*

Capital:

- *FarmPAI - not to exceed \$2,000,000*

Policy & Programs (*Action*)

Additions to eligible CREP stream layer in Clallam and Palouse Conservation Districts

Chairman Longrie welcomes Brian Cochrane, SCC Habitat and Monitoring Coordinator, to present on the next agenda item. Mr. Cochrane shares that CREP in Washington has designated stream segments so that participants and practices, primarily riparian forest buffers, are in places that achieve the goal of the program: to decrease some of the impacts of agriculture on listed species of anadromous salmon and steelhead. Other practices may be installed in tributaries and hydrologically connected wetlands of the identified streams. SCC may identify up to 10,000 miles of stream for installation of riparian forest buffers; currently, 9,607 miles are eligible. Clallam and Palouse CD staff have documentation from the local tribes, and WDFW staff that habitat is limiting and CREP enrollment of adjacent lands would be beneficial, in accordance with the process. FSA County Committees have approved the proposed additions in Whitman and Clallam counties.

In Clallam CD, two landowners along tributaries to Cassalery Creek have expressed interest in CREP. Cassalery Creek is known to have cutthroat trout, winter steelhead and Coho salmon, however, lack of riparian habitat is a limiting factor for salmon in this creek. Adding the proposed stream segments will allow wider riparian forest buffers to be planted to replace the sparse shrubby habitat now dominated by invasive reed canary grass and Oregon blackberry.

In Palouse CD, recent work has removed fish barrier culverts, providing 4.8 miles of new habitat for summer steelhead in Steptoe Creek and 3.1 miles in Stuart Creek, a tributary. The landowner on lower Steptoe Creek has recently completed 12 acres of riparian buffer. More acres are anticipated upstream with four additional landowner projects due to the proposed stream additions.

Motion by Commissioner Spaeth to approve designation of 9.4 miles of eligible stream segments for CREP in Clallam and Palouse CDs per maps in Exhibit A (meeting packet page 77). Seconded by Commissioner Giglio. Motion carries.

District Operations (Action)

2021 CAPP Final Report

Chairman Longrie welcomes Shana Joy, SCC Regional Manager Coordinator, to present on the next agenda item. Ms. Joy explains that at the January 2021 meeting, Commissioners approved the CAPP system with eight Standards including Accountability Standard 1 with requirements for use in 2021. Completing 100% of these items is a threshold for receiving state funding through the Conservation Commission.

Forty-two conservation districts are currently meeting the Accountability Standard 1 elements that can be evaluated at this time. For reference the Accountability Standard 1 elements are included below. These are status remarks around a few of the specific accountability elements. Forty-four conservation districts submitted the annual plan of work by May 30th. King Conservation District has been granted an extension to the due date.

Pine Creek Conservation District has hired a new manager who is already actively meeting with clients in the district, making contact with neighboring districts, and exploring partnerships and opportunities for new projects. The final Pine Creek Conservation District audit has been published. The finding that was issued is pertaining to records retention of financial records. The district has taken steps to ensure proper records retention of financial records going forward. They have hired a new accountant who has taken over the daily financial duties and financial records management for the district with proper internal controls in place. The Pine Creek Conservation District is on a better path forward for timely submittal of grant vouchers as required by the contract between SCC and the district. However, sufficient time has not yet passed for the district to demonstrate that they will be meeting this requirement consistently over time.

Cascadia Conservation District has completed their new election, and Palouse Conservation District is actively working to re-do their election.

Motion by Commissioner Cochran to approve the allocation of Implementation Grant funds in the amount of \$117,823 to the Pine Creek Conservation District for fiscal year 2022. Seconded by Commissioner Williams. Motion carries.

Certification of Cascadia CD's June 9, 2021 Election

Chairman Longrie welcomes Ron Shultz, SCC Policy Director, to present on the next agenda item pertaining to the Cascadia Conservation District Election. Mr. Shultz explains that on February 5, 2021, the CCD held an election. Due to an error, no poll list was created by the CCD. As a result, the Commission failed to certify the February CCD election at its regular meeting on March 18, 2021.

CCD then went to Superior Court in Chelan County and the court invalidated the February election and ordered another election to be held. This was necessary because CCD neither CCD nor the Commission have the ability to hold an election outside of the first quarter of the year, as required by statute and our administrative code. CCD held this second election on June 9, 2021, and there were no errors during this second election.

Motion by Commissioner to Crose certify the June 9, 2021 Cascadia Conservation District Election, and announce that Dillon Miller was the winner of the CCD election. Seconded by Commissioner Cochran. Motion carries.

Adoption of Proposed Election Guide Changes

Mr. Shultz continues presenting on the next agenda item relating to the SCC election and appointment guide. Mr. Shultz shares that at the May 2021 Commission meeting, staff presented proposed changes to CD election process related to mail-in only elections. The COVID-19 pandemic social distancing protocols resulted in a number of conservation districts holding their annual election by mail-in ballot only. Previous versions of the Guide had public notices and sample election resolutions that were not specific to mail-in only elections. Commission staff separated out poll-site elections from mail-in elections, and created sample notices and resolutions for each. Those sample notices and resolutions have been added to a draft Guide and now need to be adopted for use.

The Commission's GovDelivery notice system was used on May 20, 2021 to notify CDs, per the Commission's "*Policy on Policies*," that comment on the changes could be made through July 9, 2021. No comments from CDs were received.

Motion by Commissioner Cochran to adopt the proposed changes to the "Election and Appointment Guide." Seconded by Commissioner Spaeth. Motion carries.

Commission Operations (Action)

Cultural Resources Policy Update

Chairman Longrie invites Jean Fike, SCC Puget Sound Regional Manager, to present on the next agenda item. Ms. Fike explains that The Commission has been operating under Executive Order 05-05 since July 2015. Policy and procedures were developed at that time to comply with EO 05-05, mitigate impacts and protect cultural resources as conservation districts implement projects funded through Commission programs.

Following the issuance of EO 21-02 on April 7, 2021 Commission staff have been in communication with DAHP to determine what changes would be needed in the Commission's cultural resources process to bring it into compliance with the new EO. As in 2015, the process is closely modeled after that used by NRCS. It is not expected that the new EO 21-02 requirements will increase compliance costs appreciably.

The WSCC cultural resource policy language is proposed to be changed from the current language to the following:

Purpose (2021):

The Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC) values the protection of archeological and cultural resources. We encourage each district to develop good working relationships with local Tribes that can help inform and support their conservation activities and better protect cultural resources. The WSCC will ensure that future activities funded by WSCC are compliant with the Governor's Executive Order 21-02 regarding Archaeological and Cultural Resources.

Policy (2021):

Projects funded by the WSCC must follow current policy and procedures regarding the protection of cultural resources. Before a Conservation District can be reimbursed for conservation practices (capital construction projects) with WSCC-managed funds (regardless of source and including both Operational Funds and Capital Funds) a District must attest to WSCC that:

- 1) a cultural resource review compliant with EO 21-02 has been completed; or*
- 2) per WSCC policy the project/practice does not require EO-21-02 review; or*
- 3) a cultural resource review was conducted by another state agency in compliance with EO 21-02;*
or
- 4) a cultural resource review was conducted under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act; and*
- 5) all records pertaining to cultural resource review and tribal consultation have been emailed to DAHP.*

Additionally, unless subject to Section 106 (federal cultural resources review process) property acquisition projects culminating in soil-disturbing construction activities will be subject to cultural resources review under EO 21-02.

This language has been reviewed by DAHP and found to be in compliance with EO 21-02. Proposed changes to procedures include:

- The form used by districts to attest that their project complies with SCC cultural resources requirements will be updated.
- Moving forward, the SCC will update conservation practice lists to match the latest lists from NRCS.
- Districts will be required to email all documents related to cultural resources review and consultation to DAHP before they will be reimbursed.
- The program and concurrence from DAHP will be revisited at least every five years, as is NRCS's.
- Unless subject to Section 106 (federal cultural resources review process) property acquisition projects culminating in soil-disturbing construction activities will be required to undergo cultural resources review under EO 21-02.
- The flow chart currently posted on the SCC website will be replaced with a narrative process description.
- The process by which districts request reimbursement for cultural resources costs will be modified to match new fiscal practices.

Motion by Commissioner Crose to direct staff to publish the draft Cultural Resources Policy update for at least a 30- day review and comment period by conservation districts, with the intent that further action will be considered at the September 2021 Commission meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Spaeth. Motion carries.

2022-27 Strategic Plan revised timeline

Chairman Longrie invites Laura Meyer, SCC Communications Manager, to share the next agenda items pertaining to the 2022-27 SCC Strategic Plan. Ms. Meyer shares that at the December 3, 2020 SCC meeting, Commissioners approved a staff-proposed timeline for developing the 2022-2027 Strategic Plan. That timeline set a deadline to finalize the plan at the September 2021 Commission Meeting. It also set a May-July 2021 time period for staff to gather input from partners, including conservation districts.

Stakeholder input on our five-year plan is important, and as their primary partners, the SCC particularly want to give conservation districts adequate time to review and discuss it. They are currently gathering feedback from partners and districts on our goals, but after further discussion among staff, they are requesting an extension to the window for gathering feedback and allow more time to share details with conservation districts before the plan is finalized.

Motion by Commissioner Crose to extend the deadline to finalize the SCC 2022-2027 Strategic Plan from the September 2021 Commission Meeting to the December 2021 Commission Meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Beale. Motion carries.

2022-27 Strategic Plan goals

Ms. Meyer continues to present on the following agenda item, explaining that at the May 2021 Strategic Planning Session, Commissioners approved the majority of goals for our 2022-2027 Strategic Plan. A few goals were flagged for staff to revise and bring back for approval at the July Commission Meeting. These goals are as follows:

Agricultural and Working Lands Viability and Food System Support

- Goal flagged by Commissioners for revision: “Promote policy and funding to support farmland preservation and economic viability as part of the food system.” Suggestion to revise language to better encompass urban food system work.
 - *Revised goal for Commission review/action:* “Economically viable farms, farmland, and strong local and regional food systems.”
- Goal approved by SCC at May meeting but later flagged by staff for requested revision: “Increase and maintain water supply for agriculture.” Staff concerned that increasing water supply for agriculture may not be feasible.
 - *Revised goal for Commission review/action:* “Maintain water supply for agriculture.”

Governance and Accountability

- All goals approved at May SCC meeting, but staff would like to add one more goal to this area.
 - *Proposed new goal for Commission review/action:* “Conservation district boards are well-supported to achieve their mission.”

Leadership, Partnership, and Collaboration

- Goal flagged by Commissioners for revision: “Secure recognition and respect for our leadership in voluntary conservation and innovative natural resource solutions.” Suggestion to revise to focus more on public benefit of SCC having this recognition/respect and to make room for activities related to collecting/sharing success stories.
 - *Revised goal for Commission review/action:* “Demonstrate leadership in voluntary conservation resulting in innovative natural resource solutions that work.”
- Goals flagged for revision/potential merging: “Cultivate a broad and inclusive culture of conservation” and “Enhance cultural and social considerations in natural resource conservation.”
 - *Merged goal for Commission review/action:* “Cultivate a broad and inclusive culture of conservation.”

Motion by Commissioner Crose to approve the revised goals for the 2022-27 SCC Strategic Plan (meeting packet pages 24-26). Seconded by Commissioner Cochran. Motion carries.

Clarification of WSCC’s Voluntary Approach

Chairman Longrie invites Director Smith to present on the next agenda item. Director Smith shares that at the 2019 Centennial Accord, Governor Inslee committed to the tribes that he would instruct state agencies to implement site potential tree height buffers wherever possible. Since then, there has been a series of state/tribal meetings to further develop this commitment. WSCC has been very active in the non-regulatory discussions and absent from the regulatory meetings. Recently, WSCC has been asked to approve language in the regulatory pathway, and are seeking a decision from Commissioners regarding their participation in regulatory matters.

In the state/tribal riparian discussions, WSCC has participated in work products relating to non-regulatory topics, including voluntary incentives, monitoring, and funding. WSCC has not participated in discussions or product development involving regulation. The reasons include:

- The agency's mission is "to conserve natural resources on all lands in Washington through voluntary and incentive based programs in collaboration with conservation districts and other partners." The mission does not include regulatory activities.
- Working with conservation districts, they have been able to make greater strides in improving land stewardship and environmental conditions across Washington State using the voluntary incentive approach.
- Many landowners will not work with regulatory agencies. While regulatory agencies are able to conduct some work with landowners on a voluntary basis, there is a significant component of citizens who will not work with these agencies. These landowners can only be successfully reached by local, non-regulatory entities such as conservation districts.
- Voluntary stewardship actions help regulatory agencies, such as WDFW and Ecology, accomplish their environmental goals.
- WSCC has no regulatory authority, expertise, or extra capacity.

However, with the recent request for our approval of work products relating to riparian regulation, we seek input from the Commission as to whether or not WSCC should be involved in the regulatory discussions or continue to limit our involvement to non-regulatory topics, such as voluntary incentive programs, funding, and monitoring.

Motion by Commissioner Cochran to direct WSCC to participate in the state/tribal riparian process, consistent with agency mission, to conserve natural resources on all lands in Washington through technical assistance and voluntary, incentive based solutions in collaboration with conservation districts and other partners. Seconded by Commissioner Crose. Commissioner Beale abstains. Motion carries.

Presentation: Commodity Buffer Report

Chairman Longrie welcomes Mike Baden, SCC North Central and Northeast Regional Manager, to introduce the representatives from Spokane Conservation District (SCD) to begin presenting on the next agenda item. Walt Edelen, Water Resources Program Manager, and Seth Flanders, Commodity Buffer Coordinator, begin presenting on the Commodity Buffer Program Model.

Mr. Edelen shares some background on the program, beginning in 2010. At that time, Mr. Edelen was working to encourage landowners to enroll in continuous CRP program. Landowners shared that the problem they were having was that the program "just doesn't pay," and they couldn't afford not to profit from their highest yielding ground. SCD realized they needed a new program to get buffers on the ground, as the existing buffer programs didn't have adequate compensation. SCD began to work

on a new buffer model that would work in their dryland areas. This buffer program needed to improve farm efficiency, increase economic viability, reward landowners for protecting public interest, and give full value compensation. In 2016, SCD was awarded an RCPP. In that opportunity, they put in the commodity buffer as that innovative program. They proposed the use of USDA RMA revenue insurance models to accurately value, on a yearly basis, the land set aside in conservation, and compensated the newly set aside ground into buffers at the value of adjacent crop rotation, designed specifically for dryland agriculture in eastern Washington.

Mr. Flanders begins presenting on the process of the Commodity Buffer Program (CBP), starting with the program area. He displays a map showing the RCPP greater Spokane watershed, showing the over 200 commodity buffers in the area, extending through and past Spokane County. The program is widespread and successful, allowing producers to implement buffers adjacent to their neighbors, and even connect these buffers with their neighbors' to create a long and expansive buffer.

At the start of this program, SCD created a four-stage approach to the CBP that can be adaptable. These stages are:

1. Develop a connection between local upland practices, buffer widths, and stream types.
 - a. The first question asked was "what is a conservation buffer?" Answer: Small areas or strips of land in *permanent vegetation*, designed to *intercept pollutants* and manage other environmental concerns, including possible water quality concerns.
 - b. They took that answer and applied it to their area. In eastern WA, they get an average of 15"-30" of precipitation/year. The greatest concern during these events are excess sediment and nutrients coming into the water systems. They focused on ephemeral streams, but use the CBP as a gateway for riparian forest buffers.
 - c. Building on existing NRCS programs, SCD requires stem density to filter sediment, size determined by upland practice and stream type, options for woody species with extra incentives, and in order to protect habitat, there is a requirement of no cutting, haying, or grazing before July 1.
2. Develop an equation using variable "real world" farming factors (payment system).
 - a. Determine the buffer width and length, which provides the buffer area. Then, they take the actual proven history (APH) of that land and crop, and understand that the crop closest to a waterway will produce more than an area further away. In order to compensate for the most valuable ground, the APH is increased by 30%, and then add an additional 10% for every 10' of woody plantings put in. These numbers are multiplied by the USDA crop price for that year, which is the gross number for compensation.
 - b. There are variable costs for production, including gas and equipment, so the final equation for compensation is: buffer area x adjusted APH x USDA RMA price - 35% variable cost = net compensation.
 - c. Real world example of this equation.:
Width of buffers:
- Area of 4.25 acres

APH yields for the majority adjacent crops
- 80 Bushels of winter wheat/acre

Utilize RMA MPCI crop prices
- \$6.59/Bushel (projected price in 2019)

Add productivity boost on this land of 30% to the APH and a 10% bonus increase to the APH for

every 10' of riparian woody planting.
= APH (30% of 80Bu/acre = 24Bu/acre) = 104Bu/acre APH
10' of riparian plants bonus = 10% of 80Bu/acre = 8Bu/acre
= 112Bu/acre

Final equation:

4.25 Acres x (112Bu/acre) x \$6.59/Bushel = \$3,137 Gross Revenue in Year 1

Adjustment for variable cost (-35%):

\$3,137 x 65% = \$2,039 net income

Roughly \$480/acre payment for fall and winter wheat

SCD wanted to make sure that in case there was some sort of unforeseen event (market crash, fallow year, etc.), that the producer would still get paid for the buffer area. SCD guarantees a minimum of \$200/acre rental payment. In this case, the producer with a 4.25-acre buffer would receive an \$850 minimum payment.

In the case of a market price increase:

On October 15, if the price of the produce is higher than the RMA MPC1 projected price, 50% of the increase will be added to the RMA price. *Note: RMA prices have been about \$1-2 higher than market from 2017-20.*

3. Enhance or maintain the economics of producers' production (program characteristics).
 - a. There are multiple types of grasses in the area. After consulting with the WA State Department of Ecology and NRCS, SCD found out what types of grasses would not be eligible for implementation. Based on this, they created a list of the types of eligible grasses producers could choose from. All of these grasses created a stem density. In order to manage weeds and remove excess nutrients from the system, they allow cutting and grazing after the nesting period of July 1.
 - b. They allow existing buffers into the program, as long as they met buffer standards. Producers could upgrade existing buffers to meet design specifications.
 - c. They matched RCPP contract length, about three (3) years. Every producer has opted for longer contract lengths when given the opportunity. If there was a permanent source of funding, longer contract lengths could be offered.
 - d. They allow continuous sign-up, which allows producers to implement buffers in the best available time for them. All payments are annual in the spring.
 - e. To implement this, they meet with producers and:
 - i. Ask to provide maps with farm and tract numbers;
 - ii. Receive relevant information for the above equation, and;
 - iii. Map out buffers (verifying lengths on Google maps).
 - iv. Get adjacent crop information;
 - v. Verify buffers;
 - vi. Generate contracts through CPDS, and;
 - vii. Sign and send payment.
 - f. Each landowner is responsible for seeding and maintaining buffer to agreed specifications. One aspect SCD has found is that many producers have chosen to add extra buffer widths.
4. Compensate the producer for the *true value* of the buffer area.

- a. During year 1 of the program, there were 16 entities, 29 miles, 109 acres enrolled, which cost about \$33,000. In year 5 of this program, those numbers increased to 38 entities, 117 miles, 432 acres enrolled, with a total cost of \$125,000, a 9% increase. All 3-year contracts were extended to 5-year contracts, and 90% of those enrolled are interested in more buffers if funding were to become available.
- b. Because of the limited budget, some buffers have had to be turned away, knowing they could not be funded for multiple years.

Commodity buffers are chosen because they pay for the true value of the land. They are prescriptive, flexible to local upland practices, cost effective, they set standards, and although they are complicated to put in, the agency performs that task. They address local environmental concerns, and it may also address non-relevant environmental concerns.

ECY has encouraged landowners to utilize this program to comply with water quality standards for nutrients and sediment. They would like mandatory riparian planting in a portion of buffer, larger buffer sizes, and minimum 5-year contracts. There is tribal and local support from the Coeur d'Alene and Spokane tribes, VSP work plans, Spokane River Forum, and Spokane Riverkeeper and other stakeholders.

Through the RCPP, the SCC has agreed to assist in financial assistance for WA, and ECY is currently funding an SCD grant for Hangman Creek and want to implement a type of CBP with minor changes. Currently, the SCD is funding its own small CBP through their general budget.

For other CDs to implement this type of program, it is crucial to develop connection between local upland practices, buffer widths, and stream types, and develop an equation using variable "real world" farming factors. They would also want to enhance or maintain economics of production, and compensate producers for the true value of the buffer area. SCD believes this program has the potential to grow into a statewide, if not a nationwide, program. In this, the SCC is critical to the future, and could make significant impacts to water quality across the state.

District Operations (*Information*)

District Operations Report

Chairman Longrie welcomes Mike Baden to present the District Operations Report. Mr. Baden shares that the regional managers have been hard at work, with some of their accomplishments in areas like wildfire recovery, hazard mitigation grant implementation, continued COVID-19 response, and more.

Mr. Baden and Allisa Carlson, SCC South Central Regional Manager, worked with SCC financial staff and several districts impacted by the 2020 wildfires to update and refine our wildfire recovery funding allocation procedures and FAQs. The new procedures are planned to be released on July 7th and be available on the SCC website for reference as well.

Mr. Baden is leading implementation of a Hazard Mitigation Grant that the SCC is receiving from the Department of Emergency Management. Six trainings were completed in the spring:

- Home ignition zone training ("Assessing Structure Ignition Potential from Wildfires – ASIP"), delivered by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) trainers
- Outreach Strategies for Community Wildfire Preparedness and Recovery, co-organized and delivered by Val Vissia, Lincoln County CD, and Laura Meyer (SCC)
- Post-Fire Risk Mitigation and Assessment Training, organized and delivered by Okanogan CD

Three more ASIP trainings will be scheduled for this fall as well as an additional; “Outreach Strategies for Community Wildfire Preparedness and Recovery” training. In addition, 16 counties were written into the grant to receive a small amount of funds to conduct a handful of Home Ignition Zone Assessments upon successful completion of an ASIP training with the idea being to “practice what you learn”. This work will begin in the new fiscal year.

Josh Giuntoli, SCC represents the Executive Director of the Commission as ex-officio member of the Chehalis Basin Board (CBB). Since the last report, the Office of Chehalis Basin (OCB) received a budget of \$70m for aquatic and flood work in the Chehalis Basin. The budget directs that \$33.05m is provided for board-approved projects to protect and restore aquatic species habitat, \$33.05m for board-approved projects to reduce flood damage, and \$3.9m for operations of OCB and CBB. The Board has been presented options for how the \$70m budget can be allocated, and at the June 3 board meeting, a final consensus of voting members was not reached.

Chehalis Basin CDs continue to engage in work associated with the Early Action Reaches within the Aquatic Species Restoration Program (ASRP) while continuing to provide valuable on-the-ground work in the Basin. Key work continues to be landowner engagement with aspects of the Chehalis Basin Strategy. These private lands partners are critical to the success of flood and fish recovery in the Basin. With the construction window opening in July for instream work on public and private lands, partners are excited to see work to improve natural resource conditions.

Partner Updates *(Information)*

Chairman Longrie invites Mike Kuttel, Jr., of the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) to provide a brief update from the agency. Mr. Kuttel shares that Angela (Angie) Reseland has recently begun her new role with WDFW as their Farm Bill Coordinator. Ms. Reseland joins and shares that she is looking forward to working with the Commission. Before joining WDFW, she worked in Seaside, Oregon, as a coordinator for the Necanicum Watershed Council, working on restoration projects to benefit fish and wildlife, and improve habitat. She also wrote and managed grants, conducted education and outreach in the community, and led public meetings.

Commission Operations *(Information)*

Chairman Longrie welcomes back Director Smith to share a general update from the SCC. Director Smith announces that she has chosen to retire from her position at the end of this year. Her effective last day in the office will be October 22, and the last official day will be December 31. She will take leave between these dates. She is thankful to have gotten the chance to work in this capacity with the Commission. Chairman Longrie assembles a search committee of Commissioners to begin the process of hiring a new Executive Director. These members are: Chairman Longrie, Commissioner Beale, Commissioner Crose, Commissioner Dorner, Commissioner Kropf, Commissioner Spaeth, and Commissioner Williams.

Chairman Longrie adjourns the meeting at 1:54 p.m.

Attendees

Mike Baden
Ryan Baye
Perry Beale
Allisa Carlson
Alan Chapman
Larry Cochran
Brian Cochrane
Roylene Comes At Night
Harold Crose
Stephanie Crouch
Kate Delavan
Jeanette Dorner
Walt Edelen
Bill Eller
Jean Fike
Seth Flanders
David Giglio
Lori Gonzalez
Sarah Groth
Alison Halpern

Attendees (cont.)

Shana Joy
Levi Keesecker
Mike Kuttel, Jr.
Jim Kropf
Anna Lael
Patrick Lewis
Dean Longrie
Laura Meyer
Craig Nelson
Angela Reseland
Doug Rushton
Tom Salzer
Ron Shultz
Carol Smith
Sarah Spaeth
Michael Tobin
Nick Vira
Korinda Wallace
Daryl Williams
Ryan Williams



Washington State Conservation Commission

September 16, 2021

TO: Conservation Commission Members
Carol Smith, SCC Executive Director

FROM: Shana Joy, District Operations & Regional Manager Coordinator

SUBJECT: 2022 Commission Meetings Proposal

Action Item

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Informational Item

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Summary:

Annually, the Regional Managers work with other Commission staff and conservation districts to propose meeting locations and host conservation districts for the upcoming year of Commission meetings. We continue to work through a pandemic and unpredictable COVID-19 restrictions so the Regional Managers are proposing a flexible approach to the Commission meetings for 2022.

Requested Action (if action item):

Staff is requesting that Commissioners approve the proposed Commission meeting dates and potential locations for 2022 in the event that in-person Commission meeting(s) are possible.

Staff Contact:

Shana Joy, sjoy@scc.wa.gov, 360-480-2078

Background and Discussion:

If in-person Commission meetings are possible in 2022, the Regional Managers propose to offer the opportunity to host those meetings to the conservation districts noted in Table 1. Additionally, in the event that a Commission meeting is conducted in a remote format only, Regional Managers propose to work with other SCC staff and conservation districts to bring either a virtual district tour or a topical presentation(s) to that Commission meeting to continue providing an opportunity to hear from the districts about successes, innovations, and challenges that we would otherwise have an opportunity to learn about on the tours hosted by the districts.

Table 1: 2022 Commission Meeting Dates and Locations

Date	Hosting District	Location
January 19 & 20, 2022	Snohomish CD	Everett / Edmonds
March 16 & 17, 2022	Thurston CD	Olympia / Lacey
May 17, 18, & 19, 2022	Lincoln CD	Davenport / Spokane
July 20 & 21, 2022	Kittitas County CD	Ellensburg
September 14 & 15, 2022	Pacific CD	Long Beach / Other TBD
December 1, 2022	WACD Annual Meeting	TBD



September 16, 2021

TO: Conservation Commission Members
Carol Smith, SCC Executive Director

FROM: Shana Joy, Regional Manager Coordinator
Jean Fike, Puget Sound Regional Manager

SUBJECT: Cultural Resources Policy Update

Action Item	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Informational Item	<input type="checkbox"/>

Summary:

On April 7, 2021 Governor Inslee issued Executive Order 21-02 to replace Executive Order 05-05 pertaining to archaeological and cultural resources. Since that time Commission staff have worked with DAHP and other agencies to determine what changes would be needed in the Commission's cultural resources process to bring it into compliance with the new Executive Order. Proposed policy language and associated procedures have been determined by DAHP to comply with EO 21-02. As directed by Commissioners these changes and supporting documents were sent to Districts via GovDelivery on July 28th requesting comment and questions by September 1st. Comments and questions received along with a staff response are included in the packet materials. No opposition to the policy language were received, though several suggestions were made regarding supporting documents. SCC staff review indicated the need to broaden the policy language to include capital projects implemented by entities other than Conservation Districts, for example Counties implementing projects using VSP funds. This proposed adjustment is noted below, no other changes are proposed.

Staff Contact:

Jean Fike, jfike@scc.wa.gov or Shana Joy at sjoy@scc.wa.gov

Background and Discussion:

The Commission has been operating under Executive Order 05-05 since July, 2015. Policy and procedures were developed at that time to comply with EO 05-05, mitigate impacts and protect cultural resources as conservation districts implement projects funded through Commission programs.

Following the issuance of EO 21-02 on April 7, 2021 Commission staff have been in communication with DAHP to determine what changes would be needed in the Commission's cultural resources process to bring it into compliance with the new EO. As in 2015, the process is closely modeled after that used by NRCS.

The WSCC cultural resource policy language is proposed to be changed from the current language which reads:

Purpose (2015):

The Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC) is sensitive to the cultural resource concerns of the tribes in Washington State and in an effort to help preserve and protect those cultural resources, the Commission encourages each District to communicate with their local tribes regarding the conservation work that they do, in an attempt to develop a working relationship that supports their conservation activities while protecting important cultural resources.

The WSCC for its part, will ensure that future activities of the Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC) are compliant with the Governor's Executive Order 0505 regarding the preservation and protection of our statewide Archeological and Cultural Resources in the disbursement of State funds to conservation districts for capital construction projects to conserve the state's natural resources.

Policy (2015):

Before a Conservation District can be reimbursed for conservation practices (capital construction projects) with WSCC managed funds (regardless of the source, such as Operational Funds or Capital Funds), a District must provide documentation to WSCC that:

- 1) EO-0505 review has been completed or*
- 2) the project/practice is exempted from the EO-0505 review or*
- 3) EO-0505 review is not needed.*

To the following language:

Purpose (2021):

The Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC) values the protection of archeological and cultural resources. We encourage each district to develop good working relationships with local Tribes that can help inform and support their conservation activities and better protect cultural resources. The WSCC will ensure that future activities funded by WSCC are compliant with the Governor's Executive Order 21-02 regarding Archaeological and Cultural Resources.

Policy (2021):

*Projects funded by the WSCC must follow current policy and procedures regarding the protection of cultural resources. Before a Conservation District **or other recipient** can be reimbursed for conservation practices (capital construction projects) with WSCC-managed funds (regardless of source and including both Operational Funds and Capital Funds) ~~a District~~ **they** must attest to WSCC that:*

- 1) a cultural resource review compliant with EO 21-02 has been completed or*
- 2) per WSCC policy the project/practice does not require EO-21-02 review or*
- 3) a cultural resource review was conducted by another state agency in compliance with EO 21-02 or*
- 4) a cultural resource review was conducted under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and*

all records pertaining to cultural resource review and tribal consultation have been emailed to DAHP.

Additionally, unless subject to Section 106 (federal cultural resources review process) property acquisition projects culminating in soil-disturbing construction activities will be subject to cultural resources review under EO 21-02.

Proposed changes to procedures include:

- The form used by districts to attest that their project complies with SCC cultural resources requirements will be updated
- Going forward the SCC will update conservation practice lists to match the latest lists from NRCS

- Districts will be required to email all documents related to cultural resources review and consultation to DAHP before they will be reimbursed
- The program and concurrence from DAHP will be revisited at least every five years, as NRCS's is
- Unless subject to Section 106 (federal cultural resources review process) property acquisition projects culminating in soil-disturbing construction activities will be required to undergo cultural resources review under EO 21-02
- The flow chart currently posted on the SCC website will be replaced with a narrative process description
- The process by which districts request reimbursement for cultural resources costs will be modified to match new fiscal practices

It is not expected that the new EO 21-02 requirements will increase compliance costs appreciably.

Recommended Action:

Staff are requesting the Commissioners consider approval of the policy and procedure changes as presented effective immediately.

Cultural Resource Policy Update – Comments and Questions

Ten questions or comments in total were received from 4 individuals. No single theme dominated the feedback. No objection to the proposed new policy language was received.

Comments & Questions	Response or Recommended Action
<p>(paraphrasing a question from the 7/15/21 SCC meeting)</p> <p>What provision is made for time sensitive reviews – for example in the case of replacing fence posts following a wildfire?</p>	<p>This question was discussed with DAHP (Department of Archaeological and Historic Preservation). While no formal expedited procedure exists for 21-02 compliance, communicating to DAHP and the potentially affected Tribes the urgency of the request and including enough information for a quick review should help ensure a timely response. Early contact with an archaeologist may also help expedite.</p>
<p>It was not clear to me how the practice lists will change. Going to the NRCS Agreement (appendix A) did not show anything. The rubber really hits the road when we see which practices are still going to be exempt, archaeologist-exempt, or require full review. It's challenging to provide much feedback without knowing how those lists will change.</p>	<p>Appendix A is at the end of the NRCS programmatic agreement posted on the website. The update to practice lists will catch us up with changes that NRCS has made to this appendix. In comparing the 2015 and 2018 lists line by line there did not appear to be any overall directional shift in how NRCS handles practices for cultural resources review.</p> <p>Once a decision is made regarding SCC policy we plan to update the entire Cultural Resources portion of the website with (hopefully) some clearer instructions and support materials. Please contact Jean Fike with any additional ideas for improving these materials.</p>
<p>It is still very important that SCC have funding to support our time and expenses in following the required processes</p>	<p>Absolutely. A clarification though, staff time for cultural resources work can only be billed to the Implementation Grant or a TA funding award.</p>

	Separate from EO21-02 compliance and associated policy changes, our fiscal procedures have been updated so that the program under which the project is funded must also fund the cultural resource review costs. These changes should only impact projects funded through the Implementation Grant
<p>We suggest clarifying a few items from the "Overview of proposed changes" document and to make sure it is carried forward into any future guidance documents. I will capitalize proposed changes within sentences.</p> <p>In bullet 1 of "What would change", we suggest changing the second sentence to "CDs WILL email copies of all documentation regarding review and consultation COMPLETION to DAHP.</p>	<p>You are correct, copies of all documentation regarding review and consultation, including the outcome of that process, need to be emailed to DAHP. Hopefully the instruction document posted following policy adoption will be clear in this regard, please contact Jean Fike if it is not or if you see other areas that may not be clear.</p>
<p>Bullet 2 of "What would change" reads like only acquisition projects need cultural resource review with the new changes. We suggest changing the sentence to "Unless subject to section 106 (federal cultural resources review process), property acquisition or construction projects culminating in soil disturbing activities will be subject to cultural resources review under EO 21-02."</p>	<p>You are correct, all capital property acquisition or construction projects culminating in soil disturbing activities are subject to cultural resources review under EO 21-02 unless subject to federal 106 review. Soil disturbing construction projects required review under EO 05-05 as well. As only the property acquisition portion of this is new, it was highlighted in the "what would change" portion of the document. Hopefully the instruction document posted following policy adoption will be clear in this regard, please contact Jean Fike if it is not.</p>
<p>We recommend adding these two extra pieces of guidance to Districts: Initiate consultation as early in the planning process as possible to ensure it can be completed in a timely manner (assuming other factors like location or engineering designs do not change).</p>	<p>Your point is well taken and EO 21-02 also emphasizes that review should occur early in the process. Current guidance on the SCC website isn't fully consistent with this. One of the changes planned is to ensure that it is.</p>
<p>Consultation must be completed before a project is approved for implementation (which includes expenditures for construction, demolition or acquisition)</p>	<p>You are correct, districts should not proceed with project implementation prior to resolution of the review process. Many districts rely on the TA funds from a project award to develop the design and initiate review, so to require completion of CR review</p>

	prior to a grant award seems problematic. However a conservation district -or other entity utilizing WSCC funding- assumes financial and potentially legal risk if they were to begin implementation before the cultural resources process is complete. This will be emphasized in the new instruction document.
1) Please provide detailed clarification regarding what constitutes adequate consultation with tribes	What adequate consultation looks like will depend on what response is received from Tribes regarding a project. The text of the Executive Order is probably the best reference to consult for how different scenarios might play out.
2) It looks like there might be more work involved, will WSCC be allowing CD staff a higher percentage of salary to cover any extra work that needs to be completed?	It is not clear if more work will be required under 21-02 than under 05-05. The process should be largely the same for most projects. Keep in mind that staff time for cultural resources work can still only be billed to the Implementation Grant or a TA funding award.
3) Will CD staff need to use WSCC's Unanticipated Discovery Plan (UDP) format or can CD staff use another agencies UDP?	While having a UDP is strongly encouraged there is no requirement to utilize the template WSCC provides.



Washington State Conservation Commission

September 16, 2021

TO: Conservation Commission Members
Carol Smith, SCC Executive Director

FROM: Alicia McClendon, Administrative Assistant
Lori Gonzalez, Executive Assistant

SUBJECT: Benton Conservation District Mid-term Supervisor Appointment

Action Item	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Informational Item	<input type="checkbox"/>

Summary:

The SCC received one application for a mid-term appointment on the Benton Conservation District Board of Supervisors. All applications received after the annual March 31st deadline for full term appointment, will now be processed as a mid-term until next year's cycle.

The application was sent to all Commission members for their review prior to the September 16th business meeting. Commissioners and Commission staff followed the process adopted in March of 2018 to conduct a more comprehensive vetting of the applications received for Commission appointment including conducting an interview with the candidate listed below and contacting references.

A recommendation for appointment will be given by the appropriate area elected commission member.

Conservation District Mid-Term Supervisor Application

Conservation District	Name of Applicant (s)	Area Commissioner
Benton	1. Bridget Gallant	Harold Crose

Requested Action (if action item):

After recommendation and discussion, members will appoint the applicant to the conservation district board, as appropriate.

Staff Contact:

Alicia McClendon, amcclendon@scc.wa.gov

Lori Gonzalez, lgonzalez@scc.wa.gov



Washington State Conservation Commission

September 15, 2021

TO: Conservation Commission Members
Carol Smith, SCC Executive Director

FROM: Bill Eller, Election Officer

SUBJECT: Palouse Conservation District Election September 13, 2021

Action Item

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Informational Item

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Background Summary:

Staff recommends the Conservation Commission (Commission) certify and announce the official results of the Palouse Conservation District (PCD) election.

Requested Action:

That the Commission certify and announce that Jacob Smith was the winner of the PCD election.

Palouse Conservation District Election:

On February 9, 2021, the PCD held an election. Due to an error, fewer than two polling officers were present when the sole ballot was processed. As a result, the Commission declined to certify the February PCD election at its regular meeting on March 18, 2021.

PCD then went to Superior Court in Whitman County and the court invalidated the February election and ordered another election to be held. This was necessary because neither PCD nor the Commission have the ability to hold an election outside of the first quarter of the year, as required by statute and our administrative code.¹ PCD held this second election on September 13, 2021. There were 15 ballots returned and all voted for Mr. Smith. There were no errors during this second election.

Staff Contact:

Bill Eller, beller@scc.wa.gov, 509-385-7512

¹ RCW 89.08.190 and WAC 135-110-200.
Page 1 of 1



Washington State Conservation Commission

September 16, 2021

TO: Conservation Commission Members
Carol Smith, SCC Executive Director

FROM: Shana Joy, District Operations & Regional Manager Coordinator

SUBJECT: Governance Sub-Committee Report

Action Item

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Informational Item

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Summary:

In December 2020 the Commissioners tasked the Governance Sub-Committee to “craft governance policies for the State Conservation Commission by the end of calendar year 2021.” At the July 15th Commission meeting, the Committee introduced a draft *Governance and Commissioner Expectations Policy* to you with an opportunity to bring forward questions, comments, or concerns to the Committee following the introduction of the draft policy. The Committee requests that Commissioners take action to adopt the final policy document included in this report.

The Governance Sub-committee is also introducing two additional draft policies to you today: *Commissioner Compensation* (an update of current policy) and *Commission Meetings* (new policy). It is anticipated that the Committee will request action to adopt these two policies at the December 2nd Commission meeting.

Requested Action:

Adopt the *Governance and Commissioner Expectations Policy* as presented.

Staff Contact:

Shana Joy, sjoy@scc.wa.gov or 360.480.2078

Background and Discussion:

As SCC staff have been working over the last year to review existing agency policies and fill policy gaps, governance was identified as a gap in our policies. In December 2020, Commissioners appointed and tasked the Governance Sub-Committee to “craft governance policies for the State Conservation Commission by the end of calendar year 2021.”

Governance Sub-Committee Members are:

David Giglio, Commissioner
Jeanette Dorner, Commissioner
Sarah Spaeth, Commissioner
Carol Smith, Executive Director
Alison Halpern, Policy Assistant,
Sarah Groth, Fiscal Manager,
Jean Fike, Puget Sound Regional Manager
Shana Joy, Regional Manager Coordinator

The Committee has met five times to date to make progress on this task and introduced a draft *Governance and Commissioner Expectations Policy* at the July 15th Commission meeting. One comment was shared with the Committee since the policy was introduced. The comment expressed concern about the 2-year term of office for the chair and vice chair. The prior policy prescribed a 1-year term of office. The Committee discussed the concern and decided to retain the 2-year term of office. The corresponding language is yellow-highlighted in the attached policy in the event that Commissioners would like to discuss this point. Additionally, the draft was reviewed with our legal counsel at the Attorney General's office and minor suggested edits were incorporated into the final document. The Committee requests that Commissioners take action to adopt this policy today. Two additional draft policies are introduced today for Commissioner review and discussion: *Commissioner Compensation* (an update of current policy) and *Commission Meetings* (new policy).

Next Steps:

Two additional draft policies are introduced today for Commissioner review and discussion: *Commissioner Compensation* (an update of current policy) and *Commission Meetings* (new policy). Review of these two additional drafts by all staff and the Attorney General's office will be conducted prior to the December 2nd Commission meeting. It is anticipated that the Committee will request action to adopt these two policies at the December 2nd Commission meeting which will complete the task they were asked to do.



Washington State Conservation Commission

Title:	Governance and Commissioner Expectations
Policy #	21-XXXX
Applies to:	WSCC Commissioners
Effective Date:	XX, 2021

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish agency governance policy and commitments, provide additional clarity and establish standards of behavior and expectations for service of the Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC) Board of Commissioners.

BACKGROUND

The WSCC is established and authorized under RCW 89.08. Several specific sections of this RCW guide and authorize the policies established herein:

RCW 89.08.030

“The commission shall consist of ten members, five of whom are ex officio. Two members shall be appointed by the governor, one of whom shall be a landowner or operator of a farm. At least two of the three elected members shall be landowners or operators of a farm and shall be elected as herein provided. The appointed members shall serve for a term of four years.

The three elected members shall be elected for three-year terms, one shall be elected each year by the district supervisors at their annual statewide meeting. One of the members shall reside in eastern Washington, one in central Washington and one in western Washington, the specific boundaries to be determined by district supervisors.

The director of the department of ecology, the director of the department of agriculture, the commissioner of public lands, the president of the Washington association of conservation districts, and the dean of the college of agriculture at Washington State University shall be ex officio members of the commission. An ex officio member of the commission shall hold office so long as he or she retains the office by virtue of which he or she is a member of the commission. Ex officio members may delegate their authority.

The commission may invite appropriate officers of cooperating organizations, state and federal agencies to serve as advisers to the conservation commission.”

RCW 89.08.050

“It shall have authority to delegate to its chairman, to one or more of its members, to one or more agents or employees such duties and powers as it deems proper...”

“The commission shall organize annually and select a chairman from among its members, who shall serve for one year from the date of his selection...”

POLICY

Governance

Board of Commissioners Purpose

The Board of Commissioners represents, leads, and serves the agency and holds itself accountable to it by committing to act in the agency’s best interests and by ensuring that all Board and agency action is consistent with law and the agency’s policies. The Board’s purpose is to assure that the agency achieves its goals and that it operates according to its values.

The Board and its Commissioners are committed to effectively governing the agency, testing all of its decisions, maintaining Commissioner relationships with each other, evaluating the Executive Director, training new Commissioners, working with staff and subcontractors and serving its constituents.

Governing Commitments

The Board will govern lawfully, encourage full exploration of diverse viewpoints; act with integrity as ethical leaders, focus on governance matters rather than administrative issues; observe clear separation of Board and Executive Director roles, make all official decisions by formal vote of the Board; and govern with long-term vision.

The Board will function as a single unit. The opinions and personal strengths of individual Commissioners will be used to the Board’s best advantage, but the Board faithfully will make decisions as a group, by formal vote. No officer, individual, or committee of the Board will be permitted to limit the Board’s performance or prevent the Board from fulfilling its commitments.

The Board is responsible for its own performance and commits itself to continuous improvement. The Board will assure that its Commissioners are provided with training and professional support necessary to govern effectively, including ethics training. After attending conferences or events, Commissioners will report back to the Board at the next regular meeting about what they have learned.

The Board will carry out a summative self-assessment with full, honest and timely participation by all Commissioners. The assessment will include evaluation of the Board as a whole.

Board Job Description

The Board’s job is to represent, lead and serve the agency and to govern by establishing expectations for organizational results, expectations for quality operational performance, and monitoring actual performance against those expectations. The Board will:

- Set agency external-facing policy
- Evaluate Board performance.
- Hire the Executive Director and evaluate their performance.

- Adopt and keep current a long range strategic plan and monitor performance against the plan.
- Review and accept the periodic report of the State Auditor.
- Adopt and monitor implementation of biennial operating budgets.
- Review and approve biennial and supplemental budget requests, and new legislation to the Governor and state legislature.
- Appoint two conservation district supervisors to each conservation district board.
- Work with the Office of the Attorney General to support the WSCC in its work.
- Support implementation of the Conservation Accountability and Performance Program
- Set election rules for conservation district elections (Chapter 135-110 WAC)

Board Officers

The officers of the Board of Commissioners (Board) are those listed in this policy. Their duties are those assigned by this policy, and others required by law.

Chair

The Chair provides leadership to the Board of Commissioners, ensures the faithful execution of the Commission's processes, exercises interpretive responsibilities consistent with the spirit and intent of the Commission's policies, and normally serves as the Board of Commissioners' spokesperson. The Chair has the following specific authorities and duties:

- Monitor Commissioner actions to assure that they are consistent with the Board's own rules and policies:
 - Chair Commission meetings using the authority normally vested in the Chair as described in Robert's Rules of Order;
 - Conduct and monitor Commission meeting deliberations to assure that Board discussion and attention are focused on Board issues, as defined in Board policy;
 - Assure that Commission meeting discussions are productive, efficient, orderly, and respectful;
 - Lead the Commission's annual performance evaluation of the Executive Director;
 - Execute all documents authorized by the Commission, except as otherwise provided by law or delegation of authority;
 - Appoint members of all Commission committees and sub-committees with the ratification of the full Commission.
 - Represent the Board as its official spokesperson about issues or topics decided by the full Board.

Vice-Chair

The Vice-Chair serves in the absence or inability of the Chair to perform the specific authorities and duties of the Chair.

Election of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson (replaces policy no. 05-02)

A nominating committee will be formed for the purpose of recommending candidates for the office of chairperson and vice chairperson for action by the governing body at the December Commission Meeting.

The nominating committee will include members of the Commission Board and partners.

The term of office for the chairperson(s) and vice chairperson(s) shall be two years, with a maximum of two consecutive terms per role.

Only the three elected, two appointed, and ex-officio member representing Washington State University (WSU) shall be eligible for the office of chairperson or vice chairperson. Ex-officio members representing the regulatory Departments of Ecology, Agriculture, Natural Resources and WACD shall be ineligible to serve as chairperson or vice chairperson.

Procedure

A nominating committee of 3 Commissioners will be formed annually by the Board at the September regular Commission meeting for the purpose of recommending candidates for the offices of chairperson and vice chairperson.

At the next regular meeting following the September meeting, the nominating committee shall present recommendations to the full Commission board and request action. While the recommendation of the nominating committee is not binding on the full Commission board, it will be carefully considered prior to board action.

The newly elected chairperson and vice chairperson will begin service at the next regular or special meeting of the Conservation Commission, typically occurring in January of the following year.

Executive Committee (replaces policy no. 05-03)

Purpose and Structure

The purpose of the Executive Committee is to provide feedback and guidance, upon request and as appropriate, to the Executive Director between regular meetings of the full Commission Board and to make any decisions as are formally delegated to the Executive Committee by the full Commission Board. The chairperson and vice chairperson, will collectively be called the Executive Committee of the Commission. The Executive Committee shall serve as a standing committee of the full Commission Board with no expiration.

Duties

Duties of the Executive Committee may include but are not limited to:

- Provide feedback and informal guidance, upon request and as appropriate, to the Executive Director on agency matters between regular Commission meetings,
- Remain informed of legislative developments and provide feedback to SCC staff on pending legislation that may be contentious and urgent,
- Review and provide input into draft agendas for commission meetings

Additional responsibilities of the Executive Committee may also be assigned by action of the Commission. The Executive Committee shall report out its activities, as appropriate, to the full Commission board at the next regular Commission meeting.

Committees or Sub-Committees

The Board may create committees or sub-committees if they are deemed helpful to assist the Board in the performance of its responsibilities. If committees are established, they will be used exclusively to support the work of the Board at the direction of the Board.

- Committees will not be used to direct, advise, assist, or oversee the staff. Committees will have no authority over staff and may exercise demands on staff time and organizational resources only to the extent authorized by the full Board and Executive Director.

- Committees will customarily prepare recommendations for consideration by the full Board.
- Committees may not speak or act for the Board unless specifically authorized to do so. The responsibilities and authority of all committees are carefully stated in writing to assure that committees fully understand their duties and extent of authority, and to assure that committee work will not usurp or conflict with the Board's own authority or conflict with authority delegated to the Executive Director.
- All Board committees are considered to be ad hoc, or temporary, unless specifically authorized by the full Board as a standing committee. The date for the termination of each committee is listed for each committee. Committees may be renewed or reauthorized upon their expiration, but unless the Board acts to renew the committee's existence it shall cease to exist upon the date specific.
- Format for Board Committees will follow:
 - Name
 - Purpose and Charge
 - Membership
 - Reporting Schedule
 - Term
 - Authority over Resources

Advisors to the Board of Commissioners (replaces policy no. 05-07)

The Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Farm Service Agency, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the U.S. Forest Service are recognized as an important contributor to Conservation Commission meetings. Even though they are not a regular member of the Commission, the following policy shall serve as a guide for their participation in the meetings.

- They may attend all meetings and executive sessions by invitation.
- They may not make motions or vote.
- They may be recognized by the chairman and enter discussion on any subject in the same manner as any regular Commission member.

Additional short-term or topic-specific advisors may be invited to participate in Commission meetings, agency initiatives or projects at any time.

Commissioner Expectations

Attendance and Engagement

Commissioners will make every effort to attend all regular and special meetings of the WSCC. To ensure that the WSCC's meetings are conducted with maximum effectiveness and efficiency, Commissioners will spend such time as may be needed in advance of the meetings to review meeting materials, interact with the agency, organization, or region of conservation districts represented as may be needed on topics appearing on each agenda in preparation for and to enable fully engaged participation in each meeting.

If a Commissioner must be absent for a meeting, the Commissioner is expected to notify the Chairperson and Executive Director as soon as possible. A substitute delegate may participate on behalf of ex-officio Commissioners only. Any substitutes are expected to adhere to and uphold all policies, procedures, and expectations of the WSCC and the Commissioner for which they are acting as a substitute. Every effort will be made to provide timely meeting materials and

information to identified substitutes but it is the primary responsibility of the appointed Commissioner to ensure the substitute is fully prepared to attend the meeting.

Code of Conduct

The Commissioners will conduct themselves lawfully, with integrity and high ethical standards, in order to model the behaviors expected of staff and to build constituent confidence and credibility. The Commission will conduct its official business with social and fiduciary responsibility that encourages public trust. Commissioners will maintain awareness of, abide by and uphold all WSCC policies and procedures.

To build trust among Commissioners and to ensure an environment conducive to effective governance, Commissioners will:

- Communicate openly and respectfully with one another, agency staff, and the public;
- Listen to understand one another, staff, and the public;
- Support the Chair's efforts to facilitate an orderly meeting;
- Focus on issues rather than personalities;
- Exercise honesty in all written and interpersonal interaction, never intentionally misleading or misinforming each other;
- Make every reasonable effort to protect the integrity and promote the positive image of the organization and one another;
- Maintain confidentiality appropriate to sensitive issues and information that otherwise may tend to compromise the integrity or legal standing of the Commission, especially those matters discussed in executive session.

Commissioners will not attempt to exercise individual authority over the agency or staff.

- Commissioners will not attempt to assume personal responsibility for resolving operational problems or complaints;
- Commissioners will not personally direct any part of the operational organization;
- Commissioners will respect decisions of the Board and will not undermine those decisions;
- Commissioners will not publicly express individual negative judgments about Executive Director or staff performance. Any such judgments will be expressed in executive session;
- Commissioners will refer any requests for access to the agency's records to the SCC Public Records Officer;
- Commissioners will serve the interests of the entire organization. Commissioners recognize this responsibility to the whole to be greater than:
 - any other responsibility a Commissioner may have as a member; and
 - ties based upon membership on other boards or staffs.

Communication and Representation

Each Commissioner will strive to serve as a communication conduit with the agency, organization, group, or region of conservation districts represented. Each Commissioner should bring relevant news from their constituents to the WSCC in a timely manner and carry WSCC news and information back to their constituents as well.

Representing the Commission

Only the designated spokesperson(s) for the agency will provide formal or informal comments to the press or media on behalf of the agency or Board. In the circumstance where Commissioners

participate in meetings or events where it may not be clear from which perspective or which organization they are representing, all Commissioners will make it very clear that while they do serve as a Commissioner, they are not speaking on behalf of, or representing the agency unless formally designated to do so by the Chair or Executive Director. Commissioners may be involved in numerous aspects of natural resource conservation in roles outside of their service as a Commissioner; it is essential that when speaking as a Commissioner to ensure that the policies and formal positions adopted by the full Board and agency are represented accurately and are not undermined.

Ethics and Conflict of Interest (incorporates language from SCC policy no. 13-02)

The Ethics in Public Service Act, RCW 42.52 applies to all state employees and officers. All Commissioners are responsible for knowing and adhering to the Ethics Act (RCW 42.52) and rules (WAC 292-110), applicable agency policies and procedures, and for making choices that exemplify an adherence to the highest ethical standards. Detailed information on issues related to state ethics, including interpretations and clarifying examples of the Ethics Act and rules are available at the Executive Ethics Board's website www.ethics.wa.gov.

Commissioners are expected to avoid conflicts of interest involving all matters considered by the Board. A conflict of interest exists when a Commissioner is confronted with an issue in which the Commissioner has, or appears to have, a personal or financial interest or an issue of circumstance that could render the Commissioner unable to remain objective and focus upon the agency's interest.

To assure that there is no perception of impropriety or unethical behavior, Commissioners will recuse themselves from any discussion or decision which directly involves or affects them. A Commissioner will recuse him/herself by notifying the Chair of the potential conflict of interest and leave the room when the issue in conflict is voted upon.

If a Commissioner does not recuse him/herself when it may be improper for them to participate in discussion or decisions, other Commissioners or the Executive Director, have the right and obligation to request that the Commissioner recuse him/herself.

Commissioners should notify the Chairperson and Executive Director of any actual or potential violations of this policy. When in doubt, Commissioners should consult with the designated Ethics Advisor (Executive Director) or the Human Resources Office.

Process for Addressing Violations by Commissioners

The Board and each of its Commissioners are committed to faithful compliance with the provisions of the Board's policies. The Board recognizes that failure to deal with deliberate or continuing violations of its policies risks the loss of confidence in the Board's ability to govern effectively. Therefore, if the Board determines that a Commissioner's violation of law, regulation, or policy requires it the Board can address the issue and may use the following process with every attempt made to resolve the issue at the lowest possible level:

1. Conversation in a private setting between the offending Commissioner and the Chairperson or other individual Commissioner;
 - a. If the Chair's compliance is in question, the Vice-chair will be notified.
2. Discussion in an executive session between the offending Commissioner and the full Board if in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act.
3. Removal by the Board from any leadership or committee positions to which the offending Commissioner has been appointed or elected.

4. Censure of the offending Commissioner as a means of separating the Board's focus and intent from those of the offending Commissioner.
5. Removal from the Board. For ex-officio Commissioners, a request may be made to the agency or organization that has appointed the Commissioner in question to appoint another representative for their agency or organization. For Governor appointed Commissioners, a request may be made to the Office of the Governor to consider making a new appointment.

Ethics Violations

The Executive Director is designated as the agency's Ethics Advisor who coordinates and manages the agency's ethics program. The Executive Director may also appoint another member of staff to serve as the Ethics Advisor. The Ethics Advisor is the agency's liaison to the Washington State Executive Ethics Board. The Ethics Advisor may:

- a. Assess the application of conflict of interest laws and regulations to the information reported and counsel those Commissioners with regard to resolving actual or potential conflicts of interests or appearances.
- b. Counsel Commissioners concerning ethics standards and programs.
- c. Assist Commissioners in understanding and implementing agency ethics programs.

The Executive Ethics Board has the authority and responsibility for investigating alleged violation(s) of the Ethics Act. Anyone may file an ethics complaint against a state employee or officer. Complaint forms are available on the Executive Ethics Board's website. Complaints may be filed anonymously or the complainant may choose to remain confidential. Ethics complaints may be filed directly with this Board at the following website: <https://ethics.wa.gov/online-complaint-form>.

Decision Making

Board Decision Making

The Board will make decisions:

- Through a formal vote of a quorum of the Board in an open and public meeting.
- After seeking out the most complete and accurate information and perspectives from all sides of a situation.
- After providing opportunity for and consideration of public comment.

Action items brought to the Board, to the greatest extent possible, will be initially introduced at an open and public meeting. If the Board chooses to act, action would occur at the next or a future open and public meeting.

Board and Executive Director Relationship

The Executive Director is the Board's primary contact with Commission staff. The Board does not work directly with individual staff members on the operations of the organization.

The Executive Director may direct staff to communicate with Commissioners as needed.

The Board will direct the Executive Director only through official decisions of a quorum of the full Board.

- The Board will make decisions by formal, recorded vote in order to avoid any disclarity about whether direction has been given.
- The Executive Director is neither obligated nor expected to follow the directions or instructions of individual Commissioners or committees unless the Board has specifically delegated such exercise of authority.

- Should the Executive Director determine that an information request received from an individual Commissioner or a committee requires a material amount of staff time or is unreasonable, the Executive Director is expected to ask that the committee or the Commissioner refer such requests to the full Board for authorization.

Staff Accountability

The Executive Director is responsible for all matters related to the day-to-day operations of the agency, within the values expressed by the Board in policy. All staff members are considered to report directly or indirectly to the Executive Director.

- The Board will never give direction to any contractor hired by the Executive Director regarding a contract with the Executive Director or to any employee other than the Executive Director.
- The Board will not participate in decisions or actions involving the hiring, evaluating, compensation, disciplining or dismissal of any contractor hired by the Executive Director or any employee other than the Executive Director.

Authority of the Executive Director

The Board will provide direction to the Executive Director through written policies and/or formal vote of the full Board. The Executive Director is authorized to establish any administration policies or procedures, make any decisions, establish any practices and develop any activities that the Executive Director deems appropriate to achieve the work of the agency. The Executive Director is not expected to seek Board approval or authority for any decision falling within the Executive Director's area of delegated authority.



Washington State Conservation Commission

Title:	Commission Meetings
Policy #	21-XXXX
Applies to:	WSCC Commissioners and Staff
Effective Date:	XX, 2021

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidance for the structure and conduct of meetings of the full Board of Commissioners.

BACKGROUND

The WSCC is established and authorized under RCW 89.08. Additionally, specific portions of this RCW and Washington Administrative Code provide guidance for this policy.

RCW 89.08.050

A majority of the commission shall constitute a quorum and all actions of the commission shall be by a majority vote of the members present and voting at a meeting at which a quorum is present.

WAC 135-04-020

Regular meetings.

The state conservation commission, established pursuant to chapter 89.08 RCW, shall hold its regular meetings for the transaction of official business on the third Thursday of every other month, beginning in January 1974. Such regular meetings shall commence at 9:30 a.m. If at any time any regular meeting falls on a holiday, such regular meeting shall be held on the next business day.



POLICY

Regular Meetings

The WSCC Board shall meet a minimum of six times per year on the third Thursday of every other month beginning in January each year. Regular meetings may be conducted over one or more concurrent days.

Special Meetings

The WSCC Board may also schedule and conduct special meetings as deemed necessary at any time. The WSCC commits to following all requirements for public noticing of special meetings under the Open Public Meetings Act, RCW 42.30.

Emergency Meetings

Emergency meetings of the full Board may be called by the Executive Director and Executive Committee, consistent with the provisions of chapter 42.30 RCW. Meeting time, location and notice requirements do not apply to emergency meetings called for emergency matters as permitted by RCW 42.30.070, 42.30.080, and 42.14.075.

Executive Sessions

Executive sessions may be conducted from time to time only under the specific circumstances for which executive sessions are authorized pursuant to RCW 42.30.110. All executive sessions will be properly stated on the meeting agenda with the specific reason authorizing the executive session.

Format and Location of Meetings

Meetings of the Board could be conducted in person or remotely. For meetings that are conducted in person, remote options will be available for board members who have extenuating circumstances that prevent them from attending in person. Every effort will be made to provide a means for remote meeting participation for the public for all regular and special business meetings of the Commission.



In the case of a declared emergency, concerns for the safety of Commissioners, staff or the public, or in times of constraints to the agency's operating budget, regular and special meetings of the Commission may be conducted only through the use of a remote meeting platform. Opportunity for public participation will be provided through the appropriate use of technology to ensure that members of the public can see and hear the proceedings. An appropriate method of soliciting and considering public comment prior to any action items will be utilized.

All information pertaining to access and participation in a regular or special business meeting of the WSCC shall be made available on the WSCC website at www.scc.wa.gov at least 7 business days prior to any meeting.

The format of and/or physical locations for a calendar year of regular meetings will be reviewed and approved at the September meeting of the full Board in the prior year. Locations and corresponding meeting dates, once approved, will be made available on the WSCC website at www.scc.wa.gov.

Parliamentary Procedure

The Board of Commissioners shall follow Roberts Rules of Order in the conduct of all regular and special meetings. The Chairperson shall serve as the parliamentarian for all meetings. In the absence of the Chairperson, the Vice Chairperson shall serve as the parliamentarian.

Meeting Accommodations

Persons needing an accommodation to participate in WSCC public meetings should call WSCC staff at 360-407-6211, or call 711 relay service. All accommodation requests should be received no later than 7 business days prior to a scheduled meeting, to ensure preparations are appropriately made.

Meeting Agendas (replaces prior policy no. 05-04)

Meeting agendas will be set through coordination and communication between the Executive Director and Executive Committee. An agenda item may be requested by communicating in writing with the Executive Director, or designated WSCC staff, at least 30 days prior to a scheduled regular meeting. A form may be established and provided for this purpose. Making a request for an agenda item is not a guarantee that the item will be included on an agenda. The Executive Committee and Executive Director shall make all decisions pertaining to requests from individual Commissioners, partners, or the public as meeting agendas are set. Requests from WSCC staff for agenda items shall be within the authority of the Executive Director to manage.

Consent Agenda

The Board will use a consent agenda as a means to expedite the disposition of routine matters and to dispose of other items of business it chooses not to discuss. All administrative matters delegated to the Executive Director that are required to be approved by the Board will be acted upon by the Board via the consent agenda. An item may be removed from the consent agenda upon approval of a majority of the Board members present at the meeting.

Meeting Packets and Information

Packets of written materials or information will be compiled and made available to Commissioners, WSCC staff, and the public at least 10 business days prior to a regular meeting and at least 48 hours in advance of a special meeting. Packets may be directly mailed or emailed to Commissioners and will be made available to the public through the WSCC website at www.scc.wa.gov. Alternative formats of written materials or information may be accessed by contacting WSCC staff at 360-407-6200 at least 7 business days in advance of the meeting.

Public Comment

Public comment will be solicited prior to all action items that appear on the meeting agenda. Public comment should be focused on the agenda item under consideration at the time. An opportunity for public comment will be afforded to each person that signs-in requesting to provide comment (for in-person meetings) or indicates a desire to provide comment by raising their hand or utilizing chat/question features on a remote meeting platform. The Chair person may limit the time allotted to each person.

Staff Participation

WSCC staff may provide additional or late-breaking information on any agenda item upon being recognized by the Chairperson. Information offered should be focused upon the agenda item under consideration at the time and factual in nature. WSCC staff may also respond to questions posed to them directly by Commissioners during a meeting.

Minutes and Recording of Meetings

WSCC staff will create action-oriented written minutes of each regular and special meeting of the full Board. Draft minutes will be reviewed and approved at the subsequent meeting of the full Board. Approved minutes will be made available to the public on the WSCC website at www.scc.wa.gov within 30 days of approval by the Board.

Electronic recordings may be made of either in-person or remotely conducted meetings for the sole purpose of facilitating accurate and timely creation of written meeting minutes. Any

recordings created will be managed according to the appropriate records retention schedule published by the Washington State Archives.

Disruptive Behavior

To ensure that the Board's meetings are conducted with maximum effectiveness and efficiency, Commissioners will:

- Communicate openly and respectfully with each other and with staff, and
- Support the Chair's efforts to facilitate an orderly meeting.

It is inappropriate and will not be tolerated for any person in attendance at a business meeting of the full Board to do any of the following: engage in disorderly, disruptive, disturbing, delaying or boisterous conduct, such as, but not limited to, handclapping, stomping of feet, whistling, making noise, use of profane language or obscene gestures, yelling or similar demonstrations, which conduct substantially interrupts, delays, or disturbs the peace and good order of the proceedings of the Board.

Any Commissioner or WSCC staff unreasonably disturbing the business of the Board shall be asked to cease such disruption by the Chairperson. If the person engaging in such conduct is a member of the public, the Chairperson shall determine if the conduct is actually disruptive and whether the conduct has impaired the ability of the Board to attend to the business of the agency. If so, the Chairperson shall seek removal of the person from the meeting. Continued disruptions may result in a recess or adjournment of the meeting.



Washington State Conservation Commission

Policy #	21-XX Commission Member Compensation
Applies to:	The following members on the State Conservation Commission; Governor Appointees, Regional Representatives and Washington Association of Conservation Districts President
Effective Date:	XX, 2021

PURPOSE

This policy is to define the process for authorization of Commission Members compensation as defined in RCW 43.03.250.

[RCW 43.03.250](#)(2) & (3) states:

(2) Each member of a class four group is eligible to receive compensation in an amount not to exceed one hundred dollars for each day during which the member attends an official meeting of the group or performs statutorily prescribed duties approved by the chairperson of the group. A person shall not receive compensation for a day of service under this section if the person (a) occupies a position, normally regarded as full-time in nature, in any agency of the federal government, Washington state government, or Washington state local government; and (b) receives any compensation from such government for working that day.

(3) Compensation may be paid a member under this section only if it is authorized under the law dealing in particular with the specific group to which the member belongs or dealing in particular with the members of that specific group.

BACKGROUND

[RCW 89.08.040](#) Members – Compensation and travel expenses – Records, rules, hearings, etc. was revised in 2009 to include the State Conservation Commission under the definition of a class four group. [RCW 43.03.250](#) – Compensation of members of part-time boards and commissions – Class four groups (as amended by 2011 c 5) states in part:

(1) A part-time, statutory board, commission, council, committee, or other similar group shall be identified as a class four group for purposes of compensation if the group:

(a) Has rule-making authority, performs quasi-judicial functions, or has responsibility for the administration or policy direction of a state agency or program;

(b) Has duties that are deemed by the legislature to be of overriding sensitivity and importance to the public welfare and the operation of state government; and

(c) Requires service from its members representing a significant demand on their time that is normally in excess of one hundred hours of meeting time per year. A class four group as stated above in [RCW 43.03.250\(2\)](#) "is eligible to receive compensation in an amount not to exceed one hundred dollars..".

POLICY

This policy may be reviewed to ensure consistency in following the guidelines set forth in this policy.

When a member performs statutory duties approved by the chairperson or Executive Director of the group, he or she will be compensated per [RCW 43.03.250](#).

As stated in RCW 43.03.050(2), a member is eligible to receive compensation in an amount not to exceed one hundred dollars for each day during which the member attends an official meeting of the group or performs statutorily prescribed duties approved by the chairperson of the group. A two-hour minimum investment of time is required. A person shall not receive compensation for a day of service under this section if the person (a) occupies a position, normally regarded as full-time in nature, in any agency of the federal government, Washington state government, or Washington state local government; and (b) receives any compensation from such government for working that day.

A member may waive compensation by a formal written denial letter addressed to the State Conservation Commission.

Travel days are not compensated unless an official meeting is attended or the member is performing statutory duties approved by the chairperson of the group.

PROCEDURE

Pre-authorization

Dependent upon funding availability, the following activities are preauthorized by the Chairperson or Executive Director for compensation because the member is participating solely as a representative of the Washington State Conservation Commission (SCC) in these capacities:

1. Regular and special Commission meetings, including teleconferences.
2. Washington Association of Conservation Districts (WACD) meetings, this includes Officers and Directors, Taskforces, Special Committees and teleconferences.
3. Local Work Group or State Technical Advisory Committee meetings.
4. Conservation district appointed supervisor interviews.
5. Participating in meetings conducted by SCC staff as an appointed member of an established SCC committee or sub-committee.

Commission members seeking compensation for activities beyond a regular/special Commission meetings or committee meetings are encouraged to share an update on those activities where information may be of interest to the Commission. Commission staff may provide a form for this update.

Authorization by the Board

Authorization may be given by the governing board for all in or out of state attendance at conservation district, regional or national meetings as representatives of the agency not included in the above activities by motion passed by the governing board. Examples include: National Association of Conservation Districts events or National Association of State Conservation Agencies events. Authorization must be requested and granted prior to

attendance or participation at a meeting or event.

Compensation Payment

It will be the individual member's responsibility to notify SCC staff of any meetings or activities they have attended or participated in by means of submitting a compensation request (see Attachment A). Compensation requests are to be submitted at the end of each month when an approved activity has been performed or fulfilled. All requests for compensation must be submitted no later than 10 days prior to the end of the fiscal year, June 30th.

Within ten (10) business days, SCC staff will submit the request for compensation to the Department of Enterprise Services Payroll division.



Washington State Conservation Commission

September 16, 2021

TO: Conservation Commission Members
Carol Smith, SCC Executive Director

FROM: Ron Shultz, WSCC Policy Director
Lori Gonzalez, WSCC Executive Assistant

SUBJECT: Temporary Interpretive Statement for Election of Elected Position to the Commission

Action Item

☒

Informational Item

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Summary:

Because the Washington Association of Conservation Districts (WACD) will be holding their 2021 annual meeting via a hybrid style, with in-person and options to participate online, the Commission will need to change the existing Interpretive Statement (IS) regarding the process of electing the elected position to the Conservation Commission.

Requested Action (if action item):

The Commission is requested to approve a temporary interpretive statement which describes the process for electing the elected position to the Conservation Commission, limited to the 2021 election.

Staff Contact:

Ron Shultz, WSCC Policy Director	(360) 790-5994	rshultz@scc.wa.gov
Lori Gonzalez, WSCC Executive Assistant	(360) 791-0226	lgonzalez@scc.wa.gov

Background and Discussion:

In 2013 the Commission adopted an interpretive statement to clarify the process for election of the elected representatives on the Commission. The state statute indicates the timing of the election, establishes the district areas for representation, and how vacancies are filled. What was unclear was how the election was to be conducted. The Commission clarified this in the interpretive statement.

The interpretive statement establishes the election is to be held during the WACD annual meeting, how candidates are to provide notice of their candidacy, how the Commission will distribute candidate information for supervisor consideration, and how the election itself will be conducted during the WACD annual meeting.

The problem is, all of this was developed with the expectation that the WACD annual meeting would be held in-person. As we know, due to Covid-19 restriction, the annual meeting this year will be held via a hybrid style with in-person and options to participate online. Because of this, there's a need to provide for a temporary interpretive statement to cover this unique situation. The attached draft temporary interpretive statement will accomplish this purpose. It should be noted, the temporary interpretive statement expires December 31, 2021.

Recommended Action and Options (if action item):

Commission staff recommend adoption of the temporary interpretive statement.

Next Steps (if informational item):

After adoption of the temporary interpretive statement, Commission staff will implement the process outlined in the document.



STATE OF WASHINGTON

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

PO Box 47721 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7721 • (360) 407-6200 • FAX (360) 407-6215

NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF A TEMPORARY INTERPRETIVE STATEMENT

**SCC IS 20-01 Temporary Election Process Due to Covid-19 Pandemic for
Elected Members of the State Conservation Commission**

Effective Date: September 16, 2021

Statutory References: RCW 34.05.230(1) An agency is encouraged to advise the public of its current opinions, approaches, and likely courses of action by means of interpretive policy statements.

RCW 89.08.030 Provides for three members of the Commission to be elected each year by the district supervisors at their annual statewide meeting.

RCW 89.08.030 states, in relevant part:

The three elected members shall be elected for three-year terms, one shall be elected each year by the district supervisors at their annual statewide meeting. One of the members shall reside in eastern Washington, one in central Washington and one in western Washington, the specific boundaries to be determined by district supervisors. At the first such election, the term of the member from western Washington shall be one year, central Washington two years and eastern Washington three years, and successors shall be elected for three years.

Unexpired term vacancies in the office of appointed commission members shall be filled by appointment by the governor in the same manner as full-term appointments. Unexpired terms of elected commission members shall be filled by the regional vice president of the Washington association of conservation districts who is serving that part of the state where the vacancy occurs, such term to continue only until district supervisors can fill the unexpired term by electing the commission member.

FINDINGS

The Conservation Commission finds:

1. The lack of specificity in the statute for the nomination and election of the elected members of the Commission has created confusion as to the process for individuals to be considered for the position.
2. Providing a description of the ministerial process by which persons declare their interest and the election of elected members of the Commission takes place will serve the district supervisors' and the Commission's interest in a sound process for such elections.
3. Over the past year, Governor Inslee has issued several proclamations restricting the gathering of individuals in light of the Covid-19 pandemic. As a result, the Washington Association of Conservation Districts (WACD) will hold their annual meeting in a hybrid style providing participation online and in-person, as an alternative approach to the nomination and election of the elected members of the Conservation Commission.

INTERPRETIVE STATEMENT

Based on these findings, the Conservation Commission hereby issues the following interpretive statement

The Conservation Commission interprets RCW 89.08.030 to require a clear and public process for nomination of candidates for the position of elected member of the Commission. Furthermore, the Conservation Commission determines Governor Inslee's emergency declarations regarding the Covid-19 pandemic require an alteration in the process for the elected Commission position for the 2021 election.

The Commission will provide for such a process to allow for secured online voting by conservation district supervisors as follows:

- The Commission shall issue a notice of opening for candidates for elected Commission member no later than October 1 of the year in which a candidate is to be elected.
- Interested candidates will submit their interest in the elected Commission position to Commission staff no later than Friday, November 12, 2021 in the manner detailed by the Commission.

- Commission staff will distribute the list of all candidates who submitted their interest to the district supervisors by Monday, November 15, 2021.
- This year's annual meeting will be conducted in a hybrid style with options to participate in-person or online. Conservation district supervisors will have the opportunity to meet the candidates who submitted their interest in the position in a virtual or in-person (*dependent on applicant's preference*) setting during the dinner banquet on Monday, November 29, 2021.
- Nominations will be taken directly from the floor and online. Nominations will be accepted during the meet and greet on Monday, November 29, 2021.
- The Conservation Commission interprets that RCW 89.08.030 requires an assurance that the process for electing the elected member of the Commission is be clear and impartial.

The Commission will provide for such a process as follows:

- The election of the elected member of the Commission shall take place during the annual statewide meeting of the board supervisors.
- Election shall be by the district supervisors. Associate supervisors are not eligible to vote.
- Commission staff shall conduct the election by distributing a secured online voting ballot to board members email addresses on record at the Conservation Commission. Board members will have until 6:00 p.m. following the annual meeting to cast their ballot. All ballots will be automatically tallied by the online voting system and results will be announced at 8:00 p.m. by the Commission Chair.
- Following announcement of the results, the elected member of the Commission shall be sworn-in to the position by the Chair of the Commission or designee.

This interpretive statement supersedes the existing Commission document: *SCC IS 13-01 Election Process for Elected Members of the Conservation Commission* for the period beginning with the enactment date of this the temporary interpretive statement and ending December 31, 2021. After this date, the document *SCC IS 13-01 Election Process for Elected Members of the Conservation Commission* shall remain in effect.

Contact Person: Ron Shultz, Policy Director
 Washington State Conservation Commission
 P.O. Box 47721
 Olympia, Washington 98504
 (360) 790-5994
 rshultz@scc.wa.gov



Washington State Conservation Commission

Temporary PROCESS for the Election of the Elected Member of the Conservation Commission

Due to the declared COVID-19 pandemic emergency, the Commission has adopted a temporary Interpretive Statement 20-01 describing the process of the district representative to the Commission to accommodate for the WACD annual meeting being held in a hybrid style with in-person meetings and options to participate in the meetings online. For 2021 there will be one district elected position on the Conservation Commission up for election this year - the Eastern Washington district representative.

Consistent with the temporary WSCC Interpretive Statement 20-01, and to protect the health and safety of our conservation community from the COVID-19 virus, the following process will be used for the 2021 election of the elected members of the Conservation Commission:

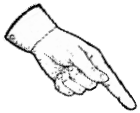
1. The Commission shall issue a notice of opening for candidates for elected Commission member on Monday, September 27, 2021.
2. Interested candidates will submit their interest in the elected Commission position no later than close of business on Friday, November 12, 2021. Interested candidates must use forms provided below.
3. Commission staff will distribute via email the list of all candidates who submitted their interest to the district supervisors by close of business on Monday, November 15, 2021.
4. Since all conservation district supervisors are eligible to vote for the Commission elected position nominee, even if the conservation district is outside the area of the elected member, conservation district supervisors are encouraged to discuss the position and candidates at the area meetings.
5. This year's annual meeting will be conducted in a hybrid style with options to participate in person or online. Conservation district supervisors will have the opportunity to meet the candidates who submitted their interest in the position in a virtual or in-person (dependent on applicant's preference) setting during the dinner banquet on Monday, November 29, 2021.
6. Nominations will be taken directly from the floor and online. Nominations will be accepted during the meet and greet on Monday, November 29, 2021.

Individuals interested in being a candidate for the elected Commission member position are

requested to complete the following form: <https://www.formstack.com/forms/?2135162-0xZB7kTiMe> and providing it to Commission staff **no later than close of business Friday, November 12, 2021.**

The only requirement in statute for the position is that the candidate resides in central Washington for the central position. Candidates can provide other information which will help district supervisors with their decision on the election.

Forms may be mailed to (and must be **received** at the Commission office by close of business Friday, November 12.):



Washington State Conservation Commission
c/o Elected Member Process
PO Box 47721
Olympia, WA 98504

Please Note: All Supervisors may cast their vote electronically via secured link provided by WACD for the elected Commission member anytime during the WACD Annual Meeting. All submittals must be received no later than 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 1. Winner of the election will be announced by 8:30 p.m. on Wednesday.

For more information, contact:

Ron Shultz, Policy Director
Washington State Conservation Commission
P.O. Box 47721
Olympia, Washington 98504
(360) 790-5994 (cell)
rshultz@scc.wa.gov



Washington State Conservation Commission

September 16, 2021 Business Meeting

TO: Conservation Commission Members
Carol Smith, SCC Executive Director

FROM: Laura Meyer, SCC Communications Manager

SUBJECT: 2022-2027 Strategic Plan – Stakeholder Feedback

Action Item

X

Informational Item

Summary:

To inform development of our 2022-2027 Strategic Plan, the SCC collected feedback from stakeholders on our priority areas and goals. That feedback, along with a staff recommendation for requested action, is presented for Commissioners' consideration and potential action.

Requested Action (if action item):

After careful review of all comments received from stakeholders, staff recommend moving forward with our current approved goals with one modification proposed to a goal under the Climate Resiliency priority area (see goal flagged in Table I).

Staff Contact:

Laura Meyer, SCC Communications Manager (lmeyer@scc.wa.gov, 360-701-9455)

Background and Discussion:

On July 9, SCC staff sent a request for feedback on our 2022-2027 priority areas and goals to a list of stakeholders, including all conservation districts and several external partners familiar with our work. Stakeholders used an electronic form to submit their comments, which were due August 16.

The staff teams who have been developing each of our five priority areas met to discuss the comments received in their area. For each comment they considered a) whether revisions/additions were needed to goals, and b) if/how the feedback could be incorporated as we build out the objectives, strategies, and tactics under each goal (as applicable).

All stakeholder comments are provided in Tables II-VI and organized by priority area. The gray column on the right shows staff team responses to each comment.

The majority of stakeholder comments reference specific actions respondents would like to see in our strategic plan. SCC staff will consider and incorporate these actions as we build out our objectives, strategies, and tactics underneath each goal, as appropriate.

Stakeholder feedback helped us identify one important area of SCC/CD work that's missing from our current goals. We specifically call out wildfire resiliency in Goal V under Climate Resiliency, but the goal is too narrow to capture other preparedness and recovery work done for climate-related hazards, such as flood and drought. Staff recommend revising the goal to correct this.

Recommended Action and Options (if action item):

Staff recommend the following action:

- Revise Goal V under the Climate Resiliency priority area to the following language:
“Strengthen the ability of our natural and working landscapes and communities to prepare for and respond to drought, wildfire, flood, and other climate-related hazards.”

Next Steps:

- This fall: SCC staff reference stakeholder feedback as they continue building out the objectives, strategies, and tactics under each priority area/goal.
- Oct: CDs have another chance to hear about and provided feedback on our plan at Area Meetings.
- Dec: Commissioners review and approve our final 2022-2027 Strategic Plan at the December business meeting.
- Jan: Plan takes effect; staff begin implementing and tracking progress.
- Each May: Status update on our 2022-2027 Strategic Plan provided for Commissioners. Staff and Commissioners review progress and adaptively manage our approach, as necessary.

Table I. 2022-2027 Strategic Plan Goals by Priority Area

Note: See Climate Resiliency section for proposed goal revision **highlighted in yellow**.

Priority Area	Goals
<i>Voluntary Conservation of Natural Resources</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I. Protect and enhance fish and wildlife habitat. II. Protect and improve water quality and availability. III. Protect and improve soil health. IV. Improve forest and rangeland health on private land. V. Strengthen awareness of natural resources' value and conservation opportunities.
<i>Agricultural and Working Lands Viability and Food System Support</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I. The SCC is a trusted and knowledgeable partner in advancing working lands protection and agricultural viability across Washington. II. Working lands are available for future generations. III. Maintain water supply for agriculture.

<i>Climate Resiliency</i>	IV. Economically viable farms, farmland, and strong local and regional food systems.
	I. Equip producers and land stewards to strengthen adaptive management strategies to successfully adapt to a changing climate. II. Increase carbon sequestration. III. Decrease greenhouse gas emissions. IV. Increase stakeholder understanding about climate-smart practices and holistic co-benefits. V. Increase wildfire resiliency of Washington's natural and working landscapes and communities ➤ Proposed revision: Strengthen the ability of our natural and working landscapes and communities to prepare for and respond to drought, wildfire, flood, and other climate-related hazards.
<i>Governance and Accountability</i>	I. The SCC Board and agency operates legally, transparently, accountably, and inclusively. II. A fully engaged and representative Commission board. III. Conservation district boards represent their community. IV. Conservation districts operate legally, transparently, accountably, and inclusively. V. Conservation district boards are well-supported to achieve their mission.
<i>Leadership, Partnership, and Collaboration</i>	I. Earn and maintain the trust of partners and decision-makers. II. Demonstrate leadership in voluntary conservation resulting in innovative natural resource solutions that work. III. Cultivate a broad and inclusive culture of conservation. IV. Foster collaborative, holistic, multi-benefit solutions for natural resources and agriculture.

Table II: Feedback on Proposed Goals – Voluntary Conservation of Natural Resources

Name (First)	Name (Last)	Affiliation	Feedback/ideas on proposed goals under Voluntary Conservation of Natural Resources	Group response (if applicable) / Thoughts on how this feedback is or will be addressed in our developing plan?
Lorenzo	Churape	Grays Harbor Conservation District	I appreciate the goals listed. However, I would be cautious in saying that we are trying to improve water quality. That can be a difficult task. I agree with protecting water quality. But instead of improving water quality, maybe we should prevent further degradation of water quality. That way we do not set ourselves up for failure. Preventing degradation might even be hard enough.	We agree this goal is a difficult task, especially monitoring. We recommend keeping the improve water quality language. CDs and SCC have demonstrated water quality improvements previously and it often is a goal of our programs. This goal is aspirational and also achievable.
Tim	Hiatt	unaffiliated	VSP should include pollinator protection components. Providing forage for pollinators should be a part of every VSP.	VSP doesn't restrict groups from identifying priorities, which could potentially include pollinator habitat. Providing forage for pollinators could be a co-benefit of work done under other existing goals in this priority area and the climate resiliency priority area.
Stu	Trefry	Pierce CD (but recommendations are my own)	Ensure policies and procedures make it easier for all types of resource conservation to occur, with a focus on underserved populations.	We regularly review policies/procedures and will continue to do so in order to make it easier for conservation to occur, with a focus on underserved populations. Much of this work will be in relation to Goal 3: Cultivate a broad and inclusive culture of conservation (under Leadership, Partnership, and Collaboration).
David	Beugli	Willapa Grays Harbor Oyster Growers Association	We have two programs that should benefit aquaculture. The shellfish program and the Voluntary Stewardship Program. Currently I am unaware how the Shellfish Program is administered on the coast. Is its focus water quality protection through upland restoration efforts? This program might benefit from better outreach. The VSP should have a large number of aquaculture participants but so far I am aware on none fully involved? We need to work on outreach and simplify the requirements to participate. Farmers are always short-handed and busy so we need to adapt the program to streamline the sign up process. The goals seem aligned with many current activities and needs.	More outreach is needed for Shellfish, VSP, and many of our programs (though much of VSP outreach is led at the local/county level, not by the SCC). We are building outreach into the strategy and tactic level under these goals.
Sarah	Moorehead	Thurston Conservation District	I would consider adding a goal around promoting/advocating for voluntary conservation programs and policies (i.e. regulatory alternatives). Also, I would consider adding a goal around developing/increasing secure funding for CDs and land stewards to implement voluntary conservation practices. This continues to be the biggest barrier - not enough funding to scratch the surface of the need. In Thurston alone, we could allocate 10X the amount of NRI cost share we are awarded each biennium (with comparable staffing capacity). I would like to see the long-term sustainable funding initiative that was started several years ago resume with broad based support.	More funding/support is needed for several aspects of our voluntary conservation work. For each goal/objective where we determine more secure funding is needed, we'll build strategies/tactics that for how we'll meet that need, such as increasing the amount of NRI dollars to mirror the actual need.

Name (First)	Name (Last)	Affiliation	Feedback/ideas on proposed goals under Voluntary Conservation of Natural Resources	Group response (if applicable) / Thoughts on how this feedback is or will be addressed in our developing plan?
Bill	Blake	Skagit Conservation District	<p>Based on feedback I receive the Commission and ultimately CDs are not trusted by some to prescribe problem solving solutions based on the most current science and I feel that may be impacting our ability to secure more funding with the Legislature. I think setting a goal to better highlight and market the Commission recognizes current science is important and will assure CD's are following that science when utilizing Commission provided funding. Something like: The WSCC will commit to fully embrace the 21st century and continuously improve our practices through keeping current with the science and understanding of how best to conserve our natural resources in ever changing environments.</p> <p>I don't think that changes what or how we do things, but it may speak loudly to those that doubt our effectiveness that we are open to continuous improvement.</p>	We are setting measureable objectives related to demonstrating the efficacy of our voluntary actions under our goals, including strategies/tactics for understanding/using natural and social science. This work also will be part of goals set under the Leadership, Partnership, and Collaboration area, including: Goal 1: Earn and maintain the trust of partners and decision-makers, and Goal 2: Demonstrate leadership in voluntary conservation resulting in innovative natural resource solutions that work.
Ryan	Williams	Cascadia CD	I suggest more descriptions for each goal. There is the summary at the start of each priority area that gets into detail, but the goals without the description gives a different impression.	We are setting measureable objectives under each goal that have associated and detailed strategies/tactics. Our approach for five-year goals is to keep them concise, clear, and broad enough that they can be a five-year destination mark.
Don	Gourlie	Puget Sound Partnership	Overall – great list, very strong alignment with Puget Sound recovery priorities/Action Agenda at this high level of detail Goal 2 – consider adding water temperature (arguably a component of quality)	Appreciate hearing this aligns with PS priorities. We are considering water temperature a component of water quality. It will be addressed under this goal.
Mike	Kuttle Jr.	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	WDFW supports all five goals, particularly protecting and enhancing fish and wildlife habitat. Conservation districts have supported fish and wildlife conservation through CREP, VSP, correcting fish passage barriers, irrigation efficiency projects, and Orca Recovery Day to name a few examples. Thank you for continuing to prioritize fish and wildlife habitat conservation.	Appreciate this support! We look forward to working with WDFW on this priority.
Monte	Marti	Alliance for Puget Sound Natural Resources	The first 4 goals hit the important natural resource concerns. Goal V is a goal that must go beyond the bounds of the Commission and districts. The Commission and districts must work with other groups, agencies, tribes, organizations, current partners, future partners, etc. to both develop and implement this goal. It will require a coordinated effort among all those interested in actually improving and protecting natural resources. The Commission should provide a leadership role ~ given its comprehensive and statewide mandate ~ in the coordination and development of implementation and awareness strategies. Strengthen awareness of natural resources value and conservation opportunities ~~ must develop a coalition to increase the effectiveness of this goal.	Goal V will have some crossover with goals in our Leadership, Partnership, and Collaboration area. We agree that the SCC and districts must work with others to strengthen awareness and value of conservation opportunities.

Table III: Feedback on Proposed Goals – Agricultural and Working Lands Viability and Food System Support

Name (First)	Name (Last)	Affiliation	Feedback/ideas on proposed goals under Agricultural and Working Lands Viability and Food System Support	Group response (if applicable) / Thoughts on how this feedback is or will be addressed in our developing plan?
Lorenzo	Churape	Grays Harbor Conservation District	I appreciate these goals as well, however I am not sure how feasible they are. Specifically the goal about maintaining water supply for agriculture. Producers have a hard enough time getting water as it is. Ideally we would want more farms. As climate change continues, the issues with water may be exacerbated. One issue that producers face is obtaining a water right to use surface water. This can be near impossible and limits the producers options for water. Without a water right, the producer has to set up a watering facility or use surface water illegally. If we can get exempt wells, why not offer an exempt option for the use of surface water. When forced to install a watering facility, producers have to pay large amounts for pipe or hose and may even have to drill a well. If this is their only option, it could force them to exit farming. If the surface water rules don't change, then local CD's could use more funding to help with the installation of watering facilities. This is a good goal. But if you are going to include this, you should also be working to do something that will positively impact our producers.	Thank you for the input and highlighting this issue. We look forward to engaging on the details of implementation.
Stu	Trefry	Pierce CD (but recommendations are my own)	Finally fund the Ag Conservation Easement Account to make the OFP the centerpiece of Washington's agricultural land protection. This should start with legislative action to make OFP the recipient of the current dollars sent to RCO.	Funding the Ag Conservation Easement Account is a strategy under Goal II. Current discussions are centered on how to develop a funding source that would be complementary to existing funding sources as we know the status quo isn't sufficient to address farmland loss or meet demand for farmland protection projects.
David	Beugli	Willapa Grays Harbor Oyster Growers Association	This program while land based might have some opportunities in aquaculture. In Washington state tidelands are privately owned. This would allow the creation of conservation easements and could help create many benefits for the farmers, water quality and the environment. Easements could incentivize farmers to protect more eel grass beds or enhance lands suitable for native oysters. A part of keeping lands viable is the management of agricultural pests. Pest have dramatic impacts to production figures and threaten food safety, employment and bay health.	Thank you for raising the idea of conservation easements on tidelands. The extent and nature of conservation easements will be discussed further as we define the details of implementing our strategic plan. Thank you for raising the concern of managing agricultural pests in keeping lands viable.
Sarah	Moorehead	Thurston Conservation District	I really appreciate the goals including economic viability. In addition to preserving land, preserving land operators is equally as important. Economic viability is a piece of this, but so is educating and creating access for future generations. I would consider adding a goal around organizing the next generation of producers (education, training programs, mentorship, shared equipment, land access programs, succession planning, etc.).	Thank you for the comment. It points to a gap in this area of our plan. We will consider additional strategies and tactics related to education and training for the next generation of producers.
Don	Gourlie	Puget Sound Partnership	Goal 2 – consider specifying the need to protect working lands; avoid conversion. Consider adding a goal or adjusting #4 to highlight equitable access to locally produced food	Thank you for your comment. Avoiding conversion of priority working lands is incorporated within Goal I and Goal II. Thank

Name (First)	Name (Last)	Affiliation	Feedback/ideas on proposed goals under Agricultural and Working Lands Viability and Food System Support	Group response (if applicable) / Thoughts on how this feedback is or will be addressed in our developing plan?
				you for the suggestion to highlight equitable access to locally produced food. Increasing equitable access to local food will be an objective under Goal IV.
Mike	Kuttle Jr.	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	WDFW supports all four goals. Working farm, ranch, and forest lands provide fish and wildlife habitat and other ecosystem services. As Washington's population continues to grow, putting pressures on natural resources, it is important we maintain viable working lands to benefit humans and fish and wildlife alike.	Thank you for your comment.
Monte	Marti	Alliance for Puget Sound Natural Resources	Relative to Goal I ... in order to be a trust partner, the Commission and districts need to identify, prioritize, diversify, and develop a sustained effort to establish and maintain partnerships (must go beyond where they are at today). This is a long, but rewarding process that must be sustained throughout this strategic plan and beyond. The Commission and districts must not be afraid to work on difficult and "non traditional" partnerships, if they are serious about this goal and the ultimate successful implementation of this strategic plan and the natural resource priorities. The tie between natural resource management, food systems, and economic viability must be a priority. If these actions/activities are not tied, then they will not be successful on the ground. Additionally, like everything ... this requires the engagement of private landowners and the public ... which is the food system.	Thank you for your comment. We acknowledge the importance of partnership and have woven that theme throughout the plan.
Tova	Tillinghast	Underwood Conservation District	This "working lands" category seems to be the place to call out forestry health and management. We support many small forest landowners in their long-term management, for habitat, timber, stream health, and wildfire risk. I see that wildfire risk is part of SCC's goals under climate resiliency, but forest management goes beyond just wildfires and climate. It's a major land use and economic base in Washington, and CDs need to stay relevant in that arena. It could be emphasized with an array of important needs and actions under the Working Lands priority.	Thank you for your comment. There is an objective under Goal II that speaks to economic viability: "The SCC and conservation districts are leaders and strong partners supporting the economic viability of forest and rangelands."
Bill	Blake	Skagit Conservation District	I think in considering DEI and I believe some of the reason we aren't better funded in Olympia we should include a reference to the importance of fisheries and shellfish to our food supply and food related economics. A subtle reference of support of those food industries could be huge in getting the finances we need to better serve our customers.	Thank you for your comment. We can further discuss traditional foods and their relationship to the food system as we implement our plan.
Lewis CD Board			Consider adding language around flood damage reduction in the Agricultural and Working Lands Viability and Food System Support or Climate Resiliency priority area.	We will approach the SCC with the suggestion of expanding Goal V of the Climate Resiliency Priority Area to include flooding and have objectives for each stressor (e.g., wildfire, flooding, drought).

Name (First)	Name (Last)	Affiliation	Feedback/ideas on proposed goals under Agricultural and Working Lands Viability and Food System Support	Group response (if applicable) / Thoughts on how this feedback is or will be addressed in our developing plan?
John	Keatley	Cowlitz Conservation District	<p>Water for Agriculture - I believe this is important enough to be a priority area rather than nominally addressed in one of the five areas as in draft plan proposed. Overview: the whole subject of water in Washington is extremely important today: for people urban and rural, for fish/wildlife given threatened and endangered species, hydro electric generation, water transport, irrigation, etc. etc. ... As Washington population increases water will become even more important; especially for actions relating to all aspects of water; quantity, quality, availability, usage processes, uncertainty, inflexibility, antiquated and slow response, risk and short and long term consequences. Importing food from drier places with less water does not bode well for Washington consumers, producers or carbon issues. Possible Goal Areas: 1) Increase/enhance water for all uses - storage large and small systems ... efficiency etc. 2) Improve D.O.E. Water processes, water policy, rules, decision times thru collaboration and legislation. Tribes are key partners. 3) Incorporate/organize and strengthen goals from the other five priority areas into the priority of water.</p> <p>Suggest moving goal III to water priority ... strengthen from maintain ...</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment. The issue of water availability for agriculture will be critically important in the years ahead. We will further consider your comments as we continue to add detail to our plan.</p>

Table IV: Feedback on Proposed Goals – Climate Resiliency

Name (First)	Name (Last)	Affiliation	Feedback/ideas on proposed goals under Climate Resiliency	Group response (if applicable) / Thoughts on how this feedback is or will be addressed in our developing plan?
Mike	Nordin	Pacific & Grays Harbor CD's	If Conservation Districts work hard on "Voluntary Conservation of Natural Resources" and "Agricultural and Working Lands Viablity and Food System Support", you really don't need the Climate Resiliency section, except for the -Increase wildfire resiliency of Washington's natural and working landscapes and communities. However, if keeping all goals, Goal IV should be Goal #1.	Goals are not listed in prioritization order.
Stu	Trefry	Pierce CD (but recommendations are my own)	If it's not being done already, work with NRCS and CTD to develop climate credits for individual BMPs and include that information in the FOTG.	Potential tactic entry under one of the goals; incentivation for adopting practices
Sharon	Shewmake	House Of Representatives	The heat wave battered our farmers up here in Whatcom. I'd also like to see work on bringing farmers into climate solutions whether it be assistance for carbon farm plans or green energy projects to reduce the reliance on fossil fuels and contribute to the green energy economy.	Potential tactic entry under one of the goals; creating ways to increase TA to producers to reduce emissions and ff dependency
Tom	Crawford	Thurston Climate Action Team	The goals you've identified in this area are excellent. We support all of them, and will be work mostly on those related to climate mitigation well into the future. We have worked with the Thurston Conservation District in the past on climate resiliency and mitigation, and look forward to continuing that collaboration in the future. Thank you for supporting TCD through its	Thank you!

Name (First)	Name (Last)	Affiliation	Feedback/ideas on proposed goals under Climate Resiliency	Group response (if applicable) / Thoughts on how this feedback is or will be addressed in our developing plan?
			recent organizational challenges. They have been a valuable partner in our communities in Thurston.	
David	Beugli	Willapa Grays Harbor Oyster Growers Association	Changes in climate are having direct effects in shellfish production. Growers are aware of the issue but remain unclear on how to adapt. In the case of tank setting of oysters farmers are unable to monitor water quality conditions such as pH and unaware of how to adapt to the current conditions. Better training could help farmers understand water quality data and when water tank buffering is needed. Oysters and eelgrass are known for their carbon sequestration abilities, this is something that should be highlighted as a positive contribution. How can aquaculture be promoted as a positive for carbon sequestration and enhanced, or incentivized to increase climate resiliency?	SCC supports carbon sequestration by shellfish producers, including in its SFF grant program. Could fit as a tactic under education goals, but would require collaboration or additional resources.
Sarah	Moorehead	Thurston Conservation District	<p>"Goal IV: Increase stakeholder understanding about climate-smart practices and holistic co-benefits"</p> <p>I'm sure the sub-actions and metrics explain what 'holistic co-benefits' are, but seeing this as a goal by itself is confusing.</p> <p>I don't see anything about drought, which is an increasingly alarming issue (flooding and sea level rise following). I understand we don't want to put everything and the kitchen sink as a goal, but did notice wildfire was called out and think that drought is a significant contributing factor and statewide issue impacting all of the other WSCC state goals.</p>	We will approach the SCC with the suggestion of expanding Goal V to include flooding and drought and have separate objectives for each stressor. We can provide examples of co-benefits under Goal IV, Objective 1
David	Edwards	Whidbey Island CD board supervisor	I think this priority area needs work. For me, "Increase carbon sequestration" and "Decrease greenhouse gas emissions" don't work as stand-alone goals for an agency with WSCC's mission and available resources. These two goals should be an integral part of the "Voluntary Conservation of Natural Resources" and "Ag and Working Lands" priority areas. Goals I and IV are good, but I think we need to delineate WSCC's and WA DNR's responsibility for wildfire resiliency. I love the Firewise program, but I see CD planners spending a lot of their valuable time on Firewise when it should actually be a DNR program.	Goals are inter-related but this is an issue of increasing importance. Goals were split because outputs differ wrt sequestering carbon and reducing GHG emissions.
Maureen	Kinlan	Pheasants Forever, Inc.	I think your proposed goals are excellent. You may want to also consider informing stakeholders about the issues associated with climate change and how they can influence and or/ exacerbate certain wildlife diseases (ex. brainworm; carried by white-tailed deer) and can cause disruptions in predator prey dynamics. You could also more broadly talk about climate issues that impact species in North America for example white-tailed deer and elk are expanding their historical ranges and by moving northward into areas that were previously dominated by other big game species such as moose and caribou. As the climate continues to warm and logging/timber practices create new roads, which lead to forest openings/gaps and cause disturbances which benefit early successional species those changes in the landscape transition habitats that once favored moose, caribou and wolves into areas that start	potential tactic under Goal I - education stakeholders about impacts on natural areas - and Goal 4 - holistic co-benefits

Name (First)	Name (Last)	Affiliation	Feedback/ideas on proposed goals under Climate Resiliency	Group response (if applicable) / Thoughts on how this feedback is or will be addressed in our developing plan?
			to benefit deer and mountain lions and can have devastating effects on the former residents. Just a thought! I'm also curious to learn about which ways you are going to increase wildlife resiliency in Washington's natural and working landscapes and communities.	
Peter	Moulton	WA Dept of Commerce	<p>Hi Laura, et al...</p> <p>Providing concrete feedback on your goals is a bit difficult at this altitude, it would be easier to respond to more specific implementation strategies as your planning evolves. Many topics will bridge your goal statements, such as the use of biochar to support wildfire resiliency, carbon sequestration, water and nutrient retention, and overall soil health, and on-farm anaerobic digesters to reduce GHG emissions, build markets for recovered nutrients, and improve water quality.</p> <p>At this point, I probably have more questions than suggestions. How will SCC be informed by WSU's Soil Health Initiative? What is the future of Sustainable Farms & Fields? How will SCC help producers realize the economic benefits of carbon sequestration and GHG emission reduction projects once the Climate Commitment Act is up and running? How should farm management policies/rules evolve to support this work?</p> <p>Hope this feedback is of some use. Thanks for the opportunity,</p> <p>Peter</p>	Thank you for your feedback. We are setting measureable objectives under each goal that have associated and detailed strategies/tactics. Our approach for five-year goals is to keep them concise, clear, and broad enough that they can be a five-year destination mark.
Ryan	Williams	Cascadia CD	When reading these the 5 goals of this section I was hoping to see more on Commission support to Conservation District common needs. All 45 Districts have very common basic needs such as accounting software and support, HR, policy development, etc. All 45 Districts spend time, energy and money figuring out these processes on their own. If there were common resources that we could all access we could be more efficient at getting work done on the ground. Especially in the small Districts. They spend a large percentage of their funding just running administrative processes rather than implementing projects. I hope Goal V can be adapted to include some of these basic needs.	Commission support for CDs and CD common needs/resources will be integrated into objectives, strategies, and tactics under all five priority areas, especially the Governance and Accountability area.
Gary	Ketcheson	Whidbey Island CD board supervisor	I think it is imperative to be very proactive and leaders in addressing climate change through actions to stem climate change and to assist our customers in living with the effects of climate change. I feel your goals address that.	Thank you for your feedback
Mike	Kuttle Jr.	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	WDFW supports all five goals. Climate change is a worldwide threat. We are already seeing the effects in drought, catastrophic wildfires, reduced snowpack, and stream temperatures lethal to salmon. These are just a few examples; climate change is taking a toll on humans and	Thank you for your feedback

Name (First)	Name (Last)	Affiliation	Feedback/ideas on proposed goals under Climate Resiliency	Group response (if applicable) / Thoughts on how this feedback is or will be addressed in our developing plan?
			fish and wildlife. We must act now to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, sequester carbon, and build climate resiliency.	
Monte	Marti	Alliance for Puget Sound Natural Resources	As we acknowledge and experience the realities of our natural environment, we must continue to emphasize the importance of climate resiliency. While the 5 stated goals are good, there is something missing. That is ... the Commission needs to be a leader in facilitating the conversations between policy makers, private landowners, interested parties, etc. The Commission needs to be an active participant in the development of strategies that incorporate the desired outcomes from the stated goals. The Commission must go beyond just letting things happen and/or come to them. The Commission must be proactive. The Commission must be a leader. The Commission must facilitate tough conversations between interested parties.	Thank you for your feedback
Bill	Blake	Skagit Conservation District	I suggest including a reference to flood management. Flood management is a real opportunity to build the bridges between Ag, Salmon recovery, forestry or the three main natural resources as partners who are all compatible with flooding. A real opportunity to rally together for mutually beneficial planning and projects rather than argue.	We will approach the SCC with the suggestion of expanding Goal V to include flooding and drought and have separate objectives for each stressor.
Lewis CD Board			Consider adding language around flood damage reduction in the Agricultural and Working Lands Viability and Food System Support or Climate Resiliency priority area.	We will approach the SCC with the suggestion of expanding Goal V to include flooding and drought and have separate objectives for each stressor.

Table V: Feedback on Proposed Goals – Governance and Accountability

Name (First)	Name (Last)	Affiliation	Feedback/ideas on proposed goals under Governance and Accountability	Group response (if applicable) / Thoughts on how this feedback is or will be addressed in our developing plan?
Mike	Nordin	Pacific & Grays Harbor CDs	Goal V. Conservation district boards are well-supported to achieve their mission, should be goal #1. The Commission itself, not Commission staff, have been failing at this since I have worked with districts. With NRCS decreasing capacity, and demand for work to be put on the ground increase rapidly, districts are constantly being put in a situation of guaranteed failure. 27 million dollars per biennium for capacity via CTA, and 50 million Biennium, while keeping the NRI and shellfish pots of money intact/sustained, through a WCRRI esque WSCC program is greatly needed, and needs to be supported by the commission, not only through action on via the Commission but also through our "partner" agencies.	Goals are not listed in any priority order. Under Goal V: <i>Conservation district boards are well-supported to achieve their mission</i> - an objective is already included: <i>SCC supports CDs with funding</i> . Objective language to be modified to read: SCC will work with districts and partners to continuously increase funding for CDs.
Stu	Trefry	Pierce CD (but recommendations are my own)	1. It's distressing to see board upheavals at a few districts. A lot of conservation is not happening because staff are spending too much time reacting to board politics. To incentivize the use of the 8 online supervisor development modules, RMs should (if they aren't already) grade each board in CAPP based on principles and concepts contained in them.	Implementing and regularly reviewing and updating CAPP components are already included under Goal IV: <i>CDs operate legally, transparently, accountably, and inclusively</i> . Also currently included under Goal III is the following Objective: <i>SCC provides CD elections' rules, procedures and</i>

Name (First)	Name (Last)	Affiliation	Feedback/ideas on proposed goals under Governance and Accountability	Group response (if applicable) / Thoughts on how this feedback is or will be addressed in our developing plan?
			2. Any effort to keep district-run elections is just nibbling around the edges of what needs to happen. District employees should never be put in the position of staffing the process to select their own board. Put the 3 elected conservation district supervisors on the general ballot, keep the two Commission appointees, and amend 89.08 to allow districts to approve their own funding mechanisms.	<i>oversight</i> as well as the following strategy: <i>Explore potential changes for improvement to CD elections</i> . Ongoing discussions around election revisions may address the 2nd point in the comments.
Sarah	Moorehead	Thurston Conservation District	<p>"Goal V. Conservation district boards are well-supported to achieve their mission."</p> <p>I would change to: 'Conservation District Boards are well-trained and supported to achieve their mission.'</p> <p>WSCC has made progress here already to provide more required and elective trainings for supervisors and I think this should be a continued focus into the future.</p> <p>I would also use consistent language in the goals when referring to the WSCC Board (currently both SCC Board and Commission Board - just for clarity).</p>	<p>Training for districts board/staff are currently included under Goal IV: <i>CDs operate legally, transparently, accountably, and inclusively</i>. Staff will review the final document to ensure consistency of language.</p>
Mike	Kuttle Jr.	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	WDFW supports all five goals. We support diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) efforts to ensure the Commission board and conservation district boards are representative of their communities. We also support ensuring conservation district boards are well-supported to achieve their missions. Many districts still rely on short term grant funding and lose staff to organizations that offer stable funding. Collectively we need to work to advocate for enough stable funding to retain qualified staff and help districts achieve their missions.	These comments are appreciated and we look forward to their sharing of resources!
Monte	Marti	Alliance for Puget Sound Natural Resources	<p>These goals ~ while good, necessary, needed, accurate ~ are too easy and don't go far enough. For example: GOAL II: Does the membership of the Commission represent all natural resource agencies in the State of Washington? Given the Commission's mandate and the mandate of districts to address ALL natural resource concerns, the Commission should consider an expansion of its membership. Additionally, engagement goes beyond "getting staff reports" during Commission meetings. The Commission meeting structure should be revisited and Commission meetings should be opportunities for engagement and comprehensive conversations about critical natural resource issues. Staff reports should be written and distributed ahead of the meeting and time could be set aside for specific questions. The bulk of a Commission meeting should be focused on specific conversations with partners, agencies, tribes, organizations, private landowners, concerned parties, "non partners" and others to have detailed conversations that lead to specific actions, strategies, initiatives, coalitions, etc. that address and advance natural resource management outcomes. The Commission should provide more leadership and support for districts. That is, there are some actions/activities at the district level that could benefit from more/additional help and support from the Commission. There needs to be an open and frank conversation about ways that the Commission can</p>	<p>Under Goal II a tactic is already included in the work group's working draft to <i>Complete an evaluation of SCC board composition</i>. Also under Goal II an objective is already included: <i>SCC and Commission meetings are a place to bring and resolve natural resource challenges</i>. Under Goal V: <i>Conservation district boards are well-supported to achieve their mission</i> - A new strategy will be included under that goal: SCC staff will identify, with districts, ways to help reduce CD administrative costs.</p>

Name (First)	Name (Last)	Affiliation	Feedback/ideas on proposed goals under Governance and Accountability	Group response (if applicable) / Thoughts on how this feedback is or will be addressed in our developing plan?
			support districts to help reduce the administrative costs tied to the development of 45 independent actions verses a coordinated action/response.	
Tova	Tillinghast	Underwood Conservation District	I think goal 5 is the closest to this topic, but it is not clearly called out. Conservation Districts need long-term sustainable funding, and WSCC is in a position to assist in securing that. They do a wonderful job summarizing our needs, success stories, and funding requests, but the goal of long-term sustainable funding, whether in the form of CTA or more, is still an essential need for many CDs.	Under Goal V: <i>Conservation district boards are well-supported to achieve their mission</i> - an objective is already included: <i>SCC supports CDs with funding</i> . Objective language to be modified to read: SCC will work with districts and partners to continuously increase funding for CDs.
John	Keatley	Cowlitz Conservation District	Move to have all District Supervisors elected - not appointed.	Included under Goal III is the following Objective: <i>SCC provides CD elections' rules, procedures and oversight</i> as well as the following strategy: <i>Explore potential changes for improvement to CD elections</i> .

Table VI: Feedback on Proposed Goals – Leadership, Partnership, and Collaboration

Name (First)	Name (Last)	Affiliation	Feedback/ideas on proposed goals under Leadership, Partnership, and Collaboration	Group response (if applicable) / Thoughts on how this feedback is or will be addressed in our developing plan?
Stu	Trefry	Pierce CD (but recommendations are my own)	SCC and WACD should craft an agreement with the Association of Washington Cities encourage all cities to become part-of/partner-with their local district and publicize the progress made through those partnerships.	Comment noted. Thank you for your suggestion. Will discuss later as we discuss details of implementation.
Emmett	Wild	Skagit Conservation District	It would be valuable to set a goal or objective to more actively engage state and federal agency partners in better collaborative processes. WSCC does an excellent job of supporting CDs and helping to provide us information and resources to successfully implement conservation in our communities. However, agencies like Natural Resource Conservation Service and Department of Ecology continue to establish policy and cost-share roadblocks that make it difficult for CDs and producers alike to engage with them. These challenging working relationships are observed at local area agency offices, but effective change can only occur when agency leadership is more effectively engaged. The current engagement approach is proving to be insufficient to affect meaningful change in how these partner agency staff implement their work. WSCC does a great job, and I would like other agencies to model their leadership more like WSCC. WSCC should be a "nation-builder" among other partner agencies.	We believe the thrust of this comment is addressed in the goals of this priority. However the specifics of the concerns in the comment could be addressed in the objectives and strategies that are identified later.
Sarah	Moorehead	Thurston Conservation District	"Goal I. Earn and maintain the trust of partners and decision-makers." This seems odd. Maybe consider changing to: 'Demonstrate effectiveness to and build trusted relationships with partners and decision-makers.' "Goal IV. Foster collaborative, holistic, multi-benefit solutions for natural resources and	Thank you for the comment. With respect to the suggestion on Goal 1, the current language follows the general approach for the structure of a goal. With respect to the comment on Goal IV, we see the two topics of "natural resources" and

Name (First)	Name (Last)	Affiliation	Feedback/ideas on proposed goals under Leadership, Partnership, and Collaboration	Group response (if applicable) / Thoughts on how this feedback is or will be addressed in our developing plan?
			<p>agriculture."</p> <p>Is agriculture not considered a natural resource by SCC? If not, this reads fine. If so, perhaps consider rephrasing. I assume the intent is to give agriculture added weight, but would still consider ending the sentence after natural resources, or include them all in a list. As resource management becomes exponentially complex and SCC/CDs become even more well positioned to address these challenges comprehensively, stakeholders, public and decision-makers will look to see their concerns reflected in these agency goals. Include them all or include none may be the best approach.</p>	"agriculture" as distinct, but are connected to each other and should be retained.
Mike	Kuttle Jr.	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	<p>WDFW supports all four goals. The Commission and districts are valued partners of WDFW. We support voluntary and incentive-based natural resources conservation and look forward to continuing our current partnerships and earning the trust to build new partnerships.</p>	Thank you for your comment.
Monte	Marti	Alliance for Puget Sound Natural Resources	<p>This priority area and associated goals should be the number one focus of the Commission (and should be at the top of the list). As the comments provided earlier state: * The Commission must work collaboratively * The Commission must work to identify, develop, build, and sustain partnerships/coalitions/initiatives * The Commission must become a leader in natural resource management in the State of Washington These things don't just happen. They require dedicated focus, humility, openness, sustained effort, and a willingness to evolve and change. The Commission and districts have slowly evolved over the past 75 years and must continue to evolve (but at a quicker pace or be left behind and become irrelevant). The Commission and districts can no longer do busy as usual and must not be afraid to have tough conversations with others engaged with and concerns about natural resource management. GOAL V could state ~~ The Commission is the place where the State of Washington hosts conversations about and develops strategies to address natural resource management concerns/issues. At this critical time in our history (given the magnitude and urgency of the natural resource concerns/issues we are facing) ... All of the other priority areas and goals flow from and follow behind this priority and associated goals. Yes, specific actions and work on the ground are required, necessary, and must happen; however, those specific actions/activities are tied to specific programs implemented by districts, other partners, future partners, private landowners, etc. The Commission must facilitate and provide the leadership that enhances partnerships and collaboration, and helps to advance on the ground actions by others.</p>	Thank you for your comment. The priorities are not listed in order of importance but identify key areas in which the Commission would like to focus work. Many of the themes raised in this comment are addressed in this priority area, and actions will be more fully developed as objectives and strategies.
Bill	Blake	Skagit Conservation District	<p>I think the Commission may want to consider a goal of how they could better measure and track the capital needs over a longer term than just annually. The Cities and Counties use the WSDOT 6-year CIP process the legislature is used to seeing and it allows projects to stay in the cue showing the need for larger dollars. We do so much for a broad set of interests on both sides of the isle that I believe through an updated and more familiar to the legislature system we could secure a much larger amount of funding for our shovel ready projects. I think we</p>	Thank you for your comment. This relates to more specific work that will be done to build capacity to achieve our goals under the Voluntary Conservation of Natural Resources and Climate Resiliency areas, as well as Goal V under Governance and Accountability, relating to ensuring CDs are well-supported to achieve their mission.

Name (First)	Name (Last)	Affiliation	Feedback/ideas on proposed goals under Leadership, Partnership, and Collaboration	Group response (if applicable) / Thoughts on how this feedback is or will be addressed in our developing plan?
			have larger project ideas at our Districts that may not get put in CPDS as it seems to be more for basic BMP's due to the funding program limitations.	
John	Keatley	Cowlitz Conservation District	An addition ... Goal V: Inquire/investigate all reports of negative, toxic, hostile, workplace incidents including exit interviews and resignations. Share learnings.	Thank you for your comment.

September 16, 2021

TO: Conservation Commission Members
Carol Smith, SCC Executive Director

FROM: Mark Craven, Snohomish CD and Chair, Joint Committee on Elections

SUBJECT: Report from the Joint Committee on Elections

Action Item

☒

Informational Item

☐

Summary:

In December 2020, the Commission passed a motion directing the creation of a joint committee with the Washington Association of Conservation Districts (WACD). The purpose of the committee was to evaluate various possible changes to conservation district elections and report back to the Commission with recommendations. This memo transmits the final report of the Joint Committee on Elections (JCE) with recommendations for the Commission's consideration.

Requested Action (if action item):

Consideration of and action on the recommendations of the JCE.

Staff Contact:

Ron Shultz, WSCC Policy Director	rshultz@scc.wa.gov
Laura Meyer, WSCC Communications Manager	lmeyer@scc.wa.gov
Bill Eller, WSCC Elections Officer	beller@scc.wa.gov
Stephanie Crouch, WSCC Administrative Assistant	scrouch@scc.wa.gov

Background

At the December 2020 regular meeting, the Commission passed a motion to establish a Joint Committee on Elections (JCE):

Motion by Commissioner Dorner for the Commission to create a joint committee with WACD to develop a list of recommendations for action on election reform. The committee should be formed and begin meeting in January 2021 and submit updates to the Commission and WACD board for their regular meetings with a final report and

recommendations to the Commission in September 2021. Seconded by Commissioner Cochran. Motion carries.

After establishing membership, the JCE met for the first time on March 24, and every other week thereafter to consider possible changes to the election process.

The attached document represents the final report of the JCE. The JCE members developed a package of recommended changes consisting of 4 parts for the Commission's consideration. Each recommended change would require a change in statute to implement.

The recommended actions are fully described in the report. Briefly they are:

Part 1: Conduct elections every other year, rather than every year as done currently.

Part 2: Extend supervisor terms (for both appointed and elected) from the current three-year term to a four-year term.

Part 3: Conduct district elections during one Conservation Month.

Part 4: Allow conservation districts the option to go on the general election ballot.

Recommended Action and Options (if action item):

The JCE recommends the Commission consider the proposed solutions as a package with 4 parts. The JCE recommends action on each of the 4 parts.

Next Steps:

If the Commission approves the elements of the JCE recommendations, legislation will be drafted by Commission staff to implement the recommendations. The draft legislation will be reviewed and approved by the Commission before submittal to the legislature. In addition, WSCC staff and WACD staff will coordinate on outreach to legislators on the proposals for conservation district election changes.

Joint Committee on Elections (JCE) Report and Recommendations to the Washington State Conservation Commission



September 2021

*Prepared by Ron Shultz, Laura Meyer, Bill Eller, and
Stephanie Crouch (Washington State Conservation
Commission Staff) on behalf of the JCE*



Executive summary

In 2019, there was increasing awareness in the Legislature and in the general public about the way special purpose districts ran elections, including conservation district elections. During the 2019 Legislative Session, bills were introduced to modify conservation district elections by placing them on the general election ballot. These bills did not pass.

Following the Legislative Session, staff from the Washington State Conservation Commission (SCC) and the Washington Association of Conservation Districts (WACD) met to discuss possible election reforms. The SCC conducted a survey of districts to gather feedback on potential reforms. Results indicated a wide divide in perspectives. At their December 2019 meeting, Commission members committed to continuing to explore election reforms. This exploration continued into 2020, including two all-district webinars to discuss election reforms in the late summer and fall.

At their December 2020 meeting, the Commission was presented with several recommendations with no requested action. The Commission passed a motion to establish a more formal process and committee for the SCC, WACD, and districts to review the election issue and developing recommendations. The SCC and WACD formed the Joint Committee on Elections (JCE) in early 2021, which met through the spring and summer of 2021 to discuss district elections and identify recommended reforms.

After meeting several times and hearing feedback from the larger CD community, the JCE recommends the following four-part proposal for CD election reforms and presents it to the Conservation Commission for consideration at their September 2021 meeting:

Part 1: Conduct elections every other year, rather than every year as done currently.

Part 2: Extend supervisor terms (for both appointed and elected) from the current three-year term to a four-year term.

Part 3: Conduct district elections during one Conservation Month.

Part 4: Allow conservation districts the option to go on the general election ballot.

Background

During the fall of 2019, some legislators became interested in the way special purpose districts' ran their elections following media reports of fiscal improprieties at a diking and drainage district. Conservation districts were caught up in these discussions. Conservation district elections have remained a topic of interest for some state and local elected officials and the media. Also during this time, some conservation districts expressed interest in how district elections could be conducted to increase voter turnout and engagement in district elections.

At their December 2019 meeting, the Commission made a commitment to explore improvements to the election process and conduct outreach to gather input on possible reforms.

The 2020 Legislature introduced bills addressing conservation district elections; however, the bills did not pass.

Formation of the Joint Committee on Elections

Following the 2020 Legislative Session, Commission staff, the Washington Association of Conservation Districts (WACD), and conservation districts explored possible changes to conservation district elections through meetings, webinars, and a survey. Results of this exploration indicated a divide in perspectives across districts.

A series of CD election options were presented to the Commission at their meeting in December 2020; however, there was no recommendation for any particular option. Commissioners decided to establish a more formal process for the SCC, WACD, and districts to review the election issue and developing recommendations and passed the following motion:

Motion by Commissioner Dorner for the Commission to create a joint committee with WACD to develop a list of recommendations for action on election reform. The committee should be formed and begin meeting in January 2021 and submit updates to the Commission and WACD board for their regular meetings with a final report and recommendations to the Commission in September 2021. Seconded by Commissioner Cochran. Motion carries. Passed December 3, 2020

This motion established the Joint Committee on Elections (JCE).

To assist in the formation of the JCE and to help guide meetings and discussions, a steering committee was formed consisting of leadership and staff from the SCCSCC and WACD. The JCE Steering Committee met every two weeks, at least one week prior to each JCE meeting, to develop the meeting agenda for the JCE meetings.

Members of the JCE

A request for conservation district volunteers was made in March 2021. Leadership from the SCC and WACD agreed the JCE should be comprised of conservation district representatives, one district supervisor and one district staff member, from each WACD area. They also agreed JCE membership would include three SCC staff members and two WACD staff members. The JCE would be chaired by a conservation district representative.

JCE membership included the following:

Chair: Mark Craven, Snohomish CD (supervisor)

NE Region

Mike Mumford, Pend Oreille (supervisor)
Dave Hedrick, Ferry (staff)

SE Region

Audrey Ahmann, Walla Walla (staff)
Larry Cochran, Palouse (supervisor)

NC Region

Craig Nelson, Okanogan (staff)

SC Region

Cindy Reed, North Yakima (supervisor)
Shirley St. John, South Yakima (staff)

NW Region

Joy Garitone, Kitsap (staff)
Kirstin Haugen, King (supervisor)

SW Region

Sue Marshall, Clark (supervisor)
Mike Nordin, Pacific/Grays Harbor (staff)

SCC

Bill Eller, Ron Shultz, Laura Meyer,
Stephanie Crouch (admin support)

WACD

Ryan Baye and Tom Salzer (staff)
Jeanette Dorner (president)

JCE meeting format

The first meeting of the JCE was held on March 24. Subsequent meetings were held every other week beginning on April 14. A total of eight meetings were held to discuss the current conservation district election process and discuss possible changes. Due to COVID restrictions, all meetings were conducted remotely.

Decision-making process

At the first meeting of the JCE ground rules were developed and a decision-making process agreed to. The JCE agreed to a consensus approach to decisions of the group. It was agreed that consensus would mean a composite of the following: agree; agree with reservations; some concerns but can live with it. Outside of consensus there would be a position of fundamentally object, and no consent. It was agreed the JCE would track concerns identified with the options that move forward. And it was agreed one person could block a proposal if they do not consent.

JCE exploration and assessment of CD elections

At their first meeting on March 24, the JCE discussed and developed their scope of work to meet the directive of the Commission's motion. The JCE reviewed work that's been done in previous years to improve the conservation district supervisor election process. Briefly, this included:

- 1939: Enabling statute – RCW 89.08
 - 70 years of elections without controversy.
- 2001/2002: An error in a legislative bill puts CDs on general election ballot. The error was fixed in the following session. But this gave some insight into the costs experienced by those districts who had to go on the general election ballot in 2001.
- 2010: WAC chapter 135-110 establish rules for CD elections.
 - Includes a provision whereby CD elections can be cancelled, and 70% usually are.
- 2015: Proviso Committee and Report. In 2014, the legislature passes a budget proviso in the Commission's operating budget directing a study to be done of CD elections and recommendations for improvements.
- 2019: In anticipation of a legislative discussion on special purpose district elections, the Commission passes a motion directing staff to convene discussions on possible changes to the CD election process.
- 2020: After recommendations provided by the Conservation District Election and Appointment Committee, the Commission undertook major revisions to WAC Chapter 135-110, which became effective September 2020
 - Elections are no longer cancelled – all CDs have an election again.
- 2020: Election discussions are completed by December with a report to the Commission which included the results of an election options survey of districts. The report did not include any recommendation as to a particular option. The Commission passes a motion leading to the formation of the Joint Committee on Elections (JCE).

The JCE also reviewed information on how other special purpose districts in the state conduct elections or if they are appointed. The group also discussed how other states elect conservation district supervisors.

Following the first meeting and discussion of the history of CD elections and election changes, the JCE identified a path forward for meeting discussion topics. It was agreed such an approach would provide background information for all JCE members as they entered the process of proposing and evaluating various options for changes to the election process.

Guest speakers

Following the introductory discussion of how other states conduct CD supervisor elections, the group expressed interest in inviting individuals from other states to learn about their elections processes and ask questions. It was agreed to reach out to Oregon where conservation district elections are on the state general election ballot. It was also agreed to engage with staff from Michigan, where the election process is similar to ours in Washington.

Oregon model

The JCE heard from Sandi Hiatt, Grants Administrator with the Oregon Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Program in the Oregon Department of Agriculture. The SWCD is

the equivalent to the Washington State Conservation Commission. Every two years in Oregon, positions that are to be reelected go on the state general election ballot. Requirements for office are established in statute. Interested individuals submit candidate applications to the SWCD for review and verification that the candidate meets the requirements for the position. The candidate application is then sent to the appropriate county auditor to be placed on the general election ballot. As required by Oregon statute, costs for the district elections are paid by each county.

JCE members were interested in whether being on the general election ballot created more partisan races. Hiatt answered it can change from year to year and by location in the state. It also depends on whether there are local issues that have increased interest. JCE members also asked if the information in the voter's pamphlet included information on the local conservation district and what the district does. Hiatt replied only if the candidates put that information in their candidate statements.

In addition, 14 of the 45 conservation districts Oregon have taxing authority. This authority has to be voted on at the local level.

Michigan model

Michigan elections are similar to Washington conservation district elections. The JCE heard from staff with the Michigan Conservation Program (MCP) which is a part of the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD). The MCP is the equivalent of the SCC. There are 75 conservation districts in Michigan. The districts receive no direct state appropriation as Washington districts do. Michigan districts are funded through grants. Each district has five directors, either elected or appointed. Appointments are done by district directors. Elections are nonpartisan and occur during the district's annual meeting. Each CD determines when the election is held. Staff at the MDARD oversee and certify the election results, similar to Washington.

Term of office for a Michigan conservation district director is 4 years. Residents of the district are eligible to vote. To become a candidate, interested person must submit a petition signed by at least five residents of the district. Election documents are submitted to MDARD for verification of candidates.

Some issues experienced by Michigan conservation districts:

- Some districts have difficulty conducting the elections themselves.
- Stagnant or inactive boards.
- Lack of diversity on boards.
- Low voter turnout.
- High voter turnout when local issues drove elections.

County auditor discussion

The JCE invited a group of county auditors to share their perspective on elections and the conduct of conservation district elections. The auditors addressed the issue of the cost of elections, saying the cost depended on which election it was held, the general or primary. All county auditors use a state system for determining the cost of an election. Costs are allocated

among all the entities on the ballot and are based on the number of voters. So the more entities on the ballot, the more costs are reduced. However, the more voters, the more costs are increased. The district on the ballot would also be required to contribute to the cost of the voter's pamphlet that is now required by law.

The King County elections representative stated the costs are higher when the election is on a year with a high voter turnout, which is typically the presidential election year. In King County, the cost of the election for the district in an even year would be approximately \$1.4 - \$1.7 million. In an odd year the cost is still around \$1 million.

In Spokane, the cost would be approximately \$100,000 for all three conservation district supervisors to be on the ballot. However, the county auditor noted that costs are going up , and that when Spokane CD was on the general election ballot in 2001, it took two years for the district to pay off the election costs.

Assessment of options

When the JCE began considering various election change options, they first considered the needs of various entities relating to the district elections. With any election, there are certain expectations. These expectations vary depending upon the observer. Voters have one set of expectations, conservation district supervisors and staff have their own set. And legislators have a particular perspective on the role of elections for a given entity.

From these various expectations, the JCE developed a list of needs upon which each election option would be evaluated. These needs included:

- Non partisan
- True to mission
- Affordable/manageable
- Flexible
- Transparent
- Trustworthy/Secure
- Accessible
- Equitable/Inclusive
- Increase voter turnout

Next, the JCE identified a suite of options for consideration as possible changes to district elections. In order to encourage "out-of-the-box" thinking, the JCE was informed by the election discussions that had gone before, but they did not feel they needed to be held to the options considered in previous processes. Essentially, the JCE engaged in a "white board" exercise where all proposals were welcomed. From this broad list of ideas, the group narrowed the ideas to a workable number. These options included:

- A. General election for all CDs – paid for by CDs
- B. General election option for CDs – paid for by CDs
- C. General election option for all – not paid for by CDs

- D. Conservation week for all – all elections in one week
- E. Conservation week option
- F. Current process with more outreach
- G. 4-year terms
- H. Every other year election

Commission staff developed a “matrix” tool to assist in the evaluation of each proposal. In this “matrix”, the reviewer would score each proposal on each of the needs listed above. The reviewer would score on a 0-5 scale, with 0 meaning a high risk or does not meet the need, and a 5 meaning no risk and best fit for the need. The purpose of this approach was to develop a “heat map” where JCE members could see how each scored the proposals.

A first round of scoring was conducted. After this round, the JCE met to review and discuss the results. Following the discussion, the JCE determined some of the options could be combined or modified based on responses to the first evaluation. Based on this discussion a second round of evaluation was conducted with the following options:

- A. 4-year term held every other year with staggered elections, plus option of either the current election process with more outreach and a conservation month, or elect to go on the general election ballot.
- B. 4-year term held every other year with staggered elections for all conservation districts using the current election process with more outreach and a conservation month, and no option to go on the general election ballot.
- C. All district supervisors appointed by the Conservation Commission.
- D. All district supervisors appointed by county commissioners or county council.
- E. All district supervisors appointed, some by Conservation Commission, some by county.
- F. Keep current election process but have Commission run the elections for the district.
- G. If no one runs for open supervisor position, then the Commission appoints (rather than district board filling vacancy under current system).
- H. General election for all, not paid for by CD, with 4-year term and staggered election.
- I. Conservation districts serving a county of a certain size (such as over 2 million population) on general election ballot.

After reviewing the second round of results, the JCE determined the next step should be a longer meeting where the options could be discussed in more depth. The existing JCE meetings were typically no more than two hours. The JCE felt to get to a resolution on the narrowed list of options, a longer four-hour meeting was needed. A face-to-face meeting was preferred, but

given the ongoing COVID related restrictions, a long web based approach was selected. The result of this lengthy and focused discussion is the list of recommended proposals described in this report.

Process for conservation district review and feedback

The JCE's list of proposed election changes was distributed to all conservation district supervisors and managers on July 19 with comments due back by August 18. Comments were open to conservation district supervisors, managers, and to district boards. The responder was requested to indicate who they were representing in their response. Attached as Appendix 1 are the results from this survey. In total there were:

- 17 comments from individual supervisors
- 7 comments from district managers
- 13 comments on behalf of a district
- 26 total districts represented in the comments

Responses for each proposal were as follows:

- Every other year elections: 68% support
- 4-year term for supervisors: 89% support
- Conservation Month: 60% support
- General ballot option: 58% support

There were various nuances for each comment to each proposal. Some were enthusiastic supporters of a proposal; others supported with caveats. Some expressed concern with how a proposal would be implemented. Others urged caution in opening the Commission's statute to make changes. Overall, there was support among the respondents for the proposals recommended by the JCE.

In addition to seeking written input, the JCE held a listening session on August 11 for conservation district supervisors and managers. This was an opportunity for district members to hear about the proposals from JCE members and to ask questions or make comments. Notes from this listening session are attached as Appendix 2.

Following the deadline for written comments and after the district listening session, the full JCE met on August 25 to review the input and make a final decision on each proposal. Comments on each proposal were discussed. The JCE then reached consensus on each recommended proposal.

Final recommendation

Members of JCE came to consensus on the following four-part proposal for CD election reforms. When combined, these four proposed changes give power to the locally led approach to conservation. The JCE also believes these are the best possible options to satisfy other election needs, such as increasing turnout, reducing costs, and staying true to mission.

It's important to note the current election process would remain in place. Conservation districts would still conduct local elections. Commission staff would still provide technical assistance to conservation districts and Commission staff would continue to monitor elections, respond to complaints, and report election results to the Commission. Of course, the current election process would not apply under part four of the proposal should a conservation district opt to go on the general election ballot. In that situation, the district election would be conducted according to the state statutes relating to general elections, and would be conducted by county auditors as part of the local election process.

Each part of the proposal outlined below will require a change to our agency statute, Title 89.08 RCW. The one exception could be part three, the establishment of a “conservation month”. The Commission could select a path that would not require a statutory change. This is discussed in more detail in the proposal description below.

JCE Recommendation for CD Election Reforms

The JCE offers the following recommendations for CD election reforms. These recommendations are offered as a package consisting for four individual recommendations. During discussions, the JCE always considered these recommendations together, each balancing the other. They are offered to the Conservation Commission for consideration:

Part 1: Districts hold a supervisor election every other year.

Currently, all conservation districts conduct elections every year. This proposal would move elections to every other year.

Why propose this change?

- Saves costs associated with conducting an election.
- Gives districts the option of choosing to run their election in either an odd or even year.

Part 2: The term for all CD supervisors, both appointed and elected, would be extended. The JCE proposes extending to a four-year term (supervisors currently serve a three-year term).

When this proposal was floated to conservation districts, the option was for either a 4-year term, or a 6-year term. Most responders felt the 4-year term would be most appropriate. Some commenters noted a 6-year term would be too long of a commitment for a voluntary board member.

- With a four-year term, two supervisor positions would be up for election during one election cycle, and one supervisor position would be elected in the next cycle two year later.
- Under the four-year term, the two appointed supervisor positions would be appointed by the Commission in “off years” when no election is held.

For current supervisors, there will be a process to modify the three-year term to a four-year term.

Why propose this change?

- Reduces election costs.
- Normalizes CD elections to match terms of several other elected positions.
- Allows CDs to follow same schedules as other elections.

Part 3: Districts would conduct supervisor elections during one Conservation Month. (currently CDs hold elections in either January, February, or March)

Districts follow the current election process but with more emphasis on local election outreach.

All districts would conduct their election during one “Conservation Month”, with the Commission determining the month. The SCC would coordinate broad statewide advertising/promotion of conservation districts and potential election opportunities throughout Conservation Month. The campaign will be developed in coordination with CDs, particularly with members of the Communications, Partnership, and Outreach group who have been building a foundation for this.

Why propose this change?

- Focusing the election in a Conservation Month would allow for broad communication and publicity of CDs and their work to a statewide audience.
- Goal would be to increase awareness of CDs and increase participation in CD elections.
- Cost of the “Conservation Month” publicity would be borne by the Commission.

Part 4: Districts would have the option to go on the general election ballot.

- By a vote of the board of supervisors, a CD could choose to go on the general election ballot, rather than conduct the election under the current process.
- CD supervisors would not be required to run in a primary election, and — similar to cemetery districts, supervisors would be exempt from Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) and personal financial filing requirements.

Why propose this change?

- Empowers each CD to make a local determination about which election approach works best for their communities and their district, consistent with our core value of locally led conservation.
- This option has the highest potential to increase voter turnout because it would be on the ballot with other entities.

Recommended timing to bring this proposal to the Legislature

The JCE discussed the best timing for bringing these proposals forward for legislative action. One commenter suggested we should not bring these proposals forward in the next legislative session. After discussion, the JCE recommends the Commission move these proposals forward

in the months ahead to be introduced next legislative session. The JCE also recommends staff from the Commission and WACD work together to conduct outreach to legislators to gather feedback on the legislative course of action.

Addendums:

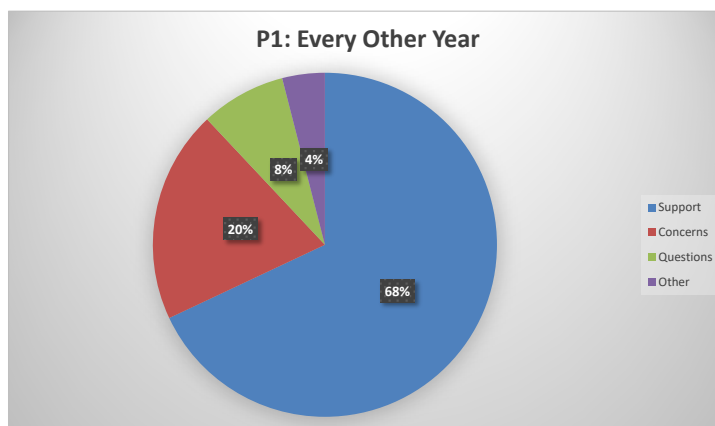
Appendix 1: Comments from CDs Excel file

Appendix 2: Notes from listening session

Appendix 3: Letter from Pacific Conservation District

Name (First)	Name (Last)	Select your conservation district:	Are you commenting on behalf of your district or sharing your individual views as a supervisor or district manager?	Comments on Part 1/4: Districts hold supervisor election every other year	
David	Lange	Whitman	Individual views as supervisor	Should work well.	S
Larry	Davis	Whatcom	Individual views as supervisor	I support. So long as the Legislature does not provide full or partial funding for the conduct of CD elections and under-recognizes how over half the CD's operate solely on 100% grant funding, any idea that saves CD's money is worthy of support.	S
Alan	Chapman	Whatcom	Individual views as supervisor	What would be the lag time between proposal and implementation? What about currently elected supervisor terms?	Q
FRANK	COREY	Whatcom	Individual views as district manager	This change would be a welcome change from more frequent elections.	S
Tracy	Kier	Jefferson County	On behalf of my district	Would be in favor of this change.	S
David	Edwards	Whidbey Island	Individual views as supervisor	What does a district do if an elected supervisor should resign after the election date in an election year? In theory, there would not be another election for up to 23 months. For example, Supervisor X is in the second year of her four-year term. The district election is held in February. In March, Supervisor X has a family health emergency and can no longer serve as a supervisor. What is the process for replacing Supervisor X? The next scheduled election isn't for 23 months.	Q
Paul	Andersson	San Juan Islands	On behalf of my district	SIJCD supports this.	S
Craig	Nelson	Okanogan	On behalf of my district	The Okanogan CD Board of Supervisors are in support of this recommendation if it is with 4-year terms of office for supervisors.	S
roderick	camarce	Kitsap	Individual views as supervisor	Okay sounds good I agree	S
Kirstin	Haugen	King	On behalf of my district	We enthusiastically support this proposal.	S
Sharon	Call	Kitsap	Individual views as supervisor	I believe Annual elections provide us the opportunity to remind the community of an opportunity to participate in a very worthy organization.I	C
Joy	Garitone	Kitsap	Individual views as district manager	I am not sure this would be that impactful. Truth be known, it's complicated enough as is and just easier to remember the rules and steps if we do it every year!	C
Albert	Allpress	Kitsap	Individual views as supervisor	The election every other year is a bit much. Leave it as it is.	C
Shirley	St John	South Yakima	On behalf of my district	South Yakima Conservation District Proposes that Elections be held every other year	S
Kim	Williams	Clallam	Individual views as district manager	Agree with every other year this would save a significant amount of time and money. This with be able to sponsor Conservation Month, this will assist with providing even more outreach even on the off years of elections.	S
Michael	Tobin	North Yakima	On behalf of my district	As an option of each individual district we can allow this. NYCD will not be utilizing this option.	C
Ronald	Juris	Eastern Klickitat	Individual views as supervisor	I like this idea. It reduces costs and staff time for elections, especially in small rural CDs like ours where it can be difficult to gather enough voters to participate and have a meaningful election.	S
Gary	Ketcheson	Whidbey Island	Individual views as supervisor	I support this change. It seems like the best way to relieve some of the burden on Districts to conduct elections annually. I don't think it will affect election turnout, but if combined with the Conservation Month suggestion, then the public may be much more aware of CD elections than they are now.	S
Dean	Hellie	Stevens County	On behalf of my district	Agree with prefer 6 year term and on even years to coincide with national elections	S
Gerald	Scheele	Spokane	Individual views as supervisor	I believe it would save costs	S
John	Keatley	Cowlitz	Individual views as supervisor	Suggest we move away from the two appointed supervisor positions to elect all five supervisors. Rationale: Elections for all supervisors is more opportunity for direct involvement, participation and representation by the voters in a district , and more transparent, perhaps more accountability.	O
Tova	Tillinghast	Underwood	On behalf of my district	The frequency of holding elections is not a major issue for our District, however, it's true that holding them once a year gives us a little more ability to retain the process and procedures among staff. We already have to review procedures each year, but moving to every other year will provide more time to forget the process and have to re-learn it.	C
Zorah	Oppenheimer	Clark	On behalf of my district	The Board liked this idea.	S
Mark	Nielson	Benton	On behalf of my district	We are ok with this.	S
Mark	Nielson	Franklin	On behalf of my district	We are okay with this.	S

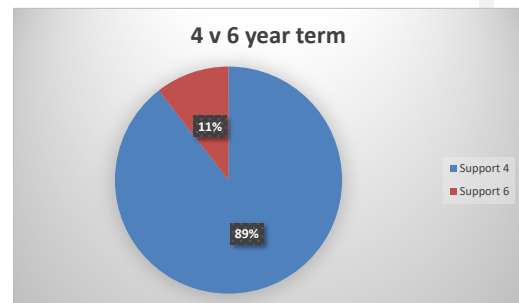
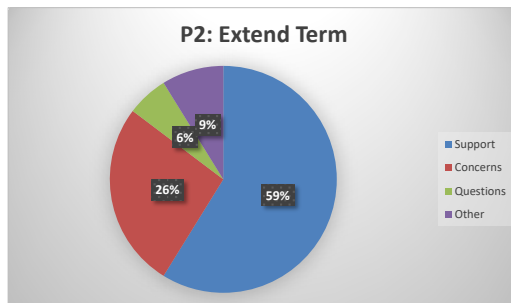
Support	17
Concerns	5
Questions	2
Other	1



Name (First)	Name (Last)	Select your conservation district:	Are you commenting on behalf of your district or sharing your individual views as a supervisor or district manager?	Comments on Part 2/4: Term for all CD supervisors extended to either 4- or 6-year terms.		
Renee	Hadley	Walla Walla County	Individual views as district manager	This proposal assumes each supervisor would complete their term as intended. What about mid-term vacancies? Will we be able to appoint/ elect mid-term per current procedures?	Q	C6
Al	Latham	Jefferson County	Individual views as supervisor	4 years	S	
David	Lange	Whitman	Individual views as supervisor	4 year I guess Why not 2 years??? Like to keep committees fresh and term limits short.	Q	4
Al	Latham	Jefferson County	Individual views as supervisor	4 years	S	4
Larry	Davis	Whatcom	Individual views as supervisor	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support extending terms to four years. I do not support six-year terms. Four years aligns with State Senator terms and terms for other local and county offices. Four years is not too long to disincentivize the incumbent from running for a second four-year term. Six-year terms I believe would lead to an increase in one-term supervisors. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support because it will save CD's monies. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support because it will align with other elections' schedules (BUT, please provide some examples. Other elections typically occur in November.)	S	4
Selena	Corwin	Pierce	Individual views as district manager	I would like to see the CD supervisors terms extended to a 4 year term.	S	4
Alan	Chapman	Whatcom	Individual views as supervisor	I think a 6 year term would be best with an election every other year	S	6
FRANK	COREY	Whatcom	Individual views as district manager	6 years is too long of a commitment and will likely limit the field of potential candidates.	O	
Tracy	Kier	Jefferson County	On behalf of my district	Would be in favor of extending to a 4-year term, not a 6-year term.	S	4
David	Edwards	Whidbey Island	Individual views as supervisor	Six years is too long; we will have elected and appointed supervisors resigning before their terms are up in unmanageable numbers. This creates additional off-cycle work for the administrative staff. Four years is probably OK, but I am not convinced it's better than three years.	O	
Paul	Andersson	San Juan Islands	On behalf of my district	SIJCD supports 4-year terms specifically.	S	4
David	Iyall	Thurston	Individual views as supervisor	I am all for elections every other year. I would prefer the four year terms.	S	4
Craig	Nelson	Okanogan	On behalf of my district	The Okanogan CD Board of Supervisors are in support of 4-year terms of office if changed from the current 3-year terms.	S	4
roderick	camarce	Kitsap	Individual views as supervisor	4 year term	S	4
Kirstin	Haugen	King	On behalf of my district	We enthusiastically support this proposal.	S	
Sharon	Howard	Kitsap	Individual views as supervisor	Lengthening the term for supervisors will make enlisting a new supervisor more difficult. I understand this will need to be done to accomplish the "every other year" election schedule, but PLEASE don't adopt a six year term. That would be a hard sell to any new candidate. Yes, most supervisors go on to serve a long time, but there would be reticence to commit to a long term at the outset.	C	
Sharon	Call	Kitsap	Individual views as supervisor	It may be more difficult to get volunteers to sign up for a longer term, especially six years.	C	
Joy	Garitone	Kitsap	Individual views as district manager	Our Board had strong feelings about longer terms. While nearly all of them are there for decades, they would like to have the option to leave. Six years is a very long time. and 4 years doesn't change much. I think our three years is feasible to most volunteers.	C	
Doug	Miller	Central Klickitat	Individual views as supervisor	Allows for longer continuity, and reduces overall cost to District.	S	
Albert	Allpress	Kitsap	Individual views as supervisor	I think it would be harder to find folks that would be willing to commit to that long of a time...although the longer between elections, the less cost involved in the election process.	C	
Shirley	St John	South Yakima	On behalf of my district	South Yakima Conservation District Proposes that the term of all CD Supervisors, both appointed and elected, would be extended to a 4 year Term.	S	4
Kim	Williams	Clallam	Individual views as district manager	We prefer no more than 4 years.	S	4
Michael	Tobin	North Yakima	On behalf of my district	In allowing part 1/4 the door is now open for allowing even longer tenure of an elected official. When this is done the special purpose district can be stuck with a dud, a antagonist, etc... This all comes at the pro-longed detriment of the special purpose district effecting supervisors, staff and the programs the special purpose district implements. The WSCC should also ask itself how much time, energy and effort is put into these situations. WHATCOM, CLALLAM, etc... At a glance the idea of serving that long would reduce the likelihood that candidates (viable) would run. For us a 6 year term is absolutely out for too many reasons to list and for things we haven't even thought of.	C	
Amanda	Ward	Foster Creek	Individual views as district manager	I believe many of Foster Creek's current supervisors have probably set some kind of record for terms served, however, I think an initial 6-year term might be daunting for a 'newbie'. We have a low population in Douglas County and it makes it all the more obvious that the same people serve on all the local committees, leading to 'uninspired consistency' and predictability in each committee. Burn out is also an issue, meaning people don't bother to turn up to meetings, which can become problematic. You want to try to encourage new ideas, younger people and greater diversity. The longer the commitment, the harder that will be.	C	
Ronald	Juris	Eastern Klickitat	Individual views as supervisor	Obviously the only way alternate year elections would work. Not sure on term length. 6 year allows more staggering of the board terms so there is smoother transition when new members are elected but is also asking for a much longer commitment which might put some potential candidates off.	O	

Gary	Ketcheson	Whidbey Island	Individual views as supervisor	Since many Supervisors tend to stay active for a number of years, it seems that extending terms would give supervisors more time to settle into the role and effect changes and/or more fully support District staff and programs. Maybe at the risk of contradicting the above, I would suggest not extending to 6-year terms. Recruiting Supervisors can sometimes be difficult, and a 6-year term may be off-setting for some, whereas a 4-year term may be more palatable.	S	4	C6
Dean	Hellie	Stevens County	On behalf of my district	6 year terms	S	6	
Elsa	Bowen	Lincoln County	On behalf of my district	Great webinar explaining all the options and answering questions. Really helpful!! Leave at 4 years if possibly going to deter board members form applying.	S	4	C6
Gerald	Scheele	Spokane	Individual views as supervisor	I would support the four year term only.	S	4	
John	Keatley	Cowlitz	Individual views as supervisor	Suggest the term be kept at 3 years because some potential supervisors might be reluctant to serve either a 4 or 6 year term and might result in more resignations from the board members.	C		
Tova	Tillinghast	Underwood	On behalf of my district	This is the most concerning for our board. Among our board members, there is a common concern that 6 year terms would be too much to ask, and would also dissuade new supervisors from joining the board. While we understand board members can always resign if needed, that should not be a common exit strategy, and filling mid-term vacancies creates extra work and expense for CDs as well. A four-year term is almost too much and could pose similar challenges. A 2 or 3-year term is more palatable. We do encourage the Commission to include options for incumbents to have minimal paperwork requirements, and enable incumbents to be easily re-elected if unopposed. Having long-term institutional memory for the board is very important.	C		
Zorah	Oppenheimer	Clark	On behalf of my district	The Board all agreed that 6 years was too long. From a recruitment perspective, it will be challenging to have people join our Board with a commitment of that long. While we understand that long-term board members would prefer a longer term, we suggest a 2-4 year term to encourage the most diverse pool of candidates. Our Board also suggested a farmer's position of 2 years with the option to extend to 4. This could add complication, but it would also encourage working farmers to participate.	C		
Mark	Nielson	Benton	On behalf of my district	Would definitely prefer a 4 year term as opposed to a six year term.	S	4	C6
Mark	Nielson	Franklin	On behalf of my district	Would definitely prefer a 4 year term as opposed to a six year term.	S	4	C6

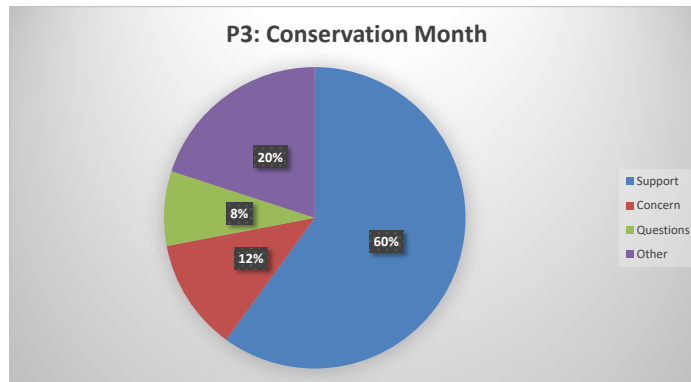
Support	20
Concerns	9
Questions	2
Other	3
Support 4	17
Support 6	2
Concern about 6	15



Name (First)	Name (Last)	Select your conservation district:	Are you commenting on behalf of your district or sharing your individual views as a supervisor or district manager?	Comments on Part 3/4: Districts follow current process but with more local outreach and they all hold their election during one "Conservation Month"	
Al	Latham	Jefferson County	Individual views as supervisor	OK but survey might have included an option to choose which month is preferable.	S
David	Lange	Whitman	Individual views as supervisor	If 4/4 takes place we are all tied into November for the election month?	Q
Larry	Davis	Whatcom	Individual views as supervisor	I support with one caveat - King CD is unique for many reasons. I think its use of electronic balloting and need to 'serve' the King County Council for political reasons, argues for giving King CD the latitude to run its election in a month other than January, February, or March. The caveat can be legally worded in a way that this optional latitude would apply only to King CD. Example: "Any county with a population of greater than two million and a city therein with a population of greater than 700,000 may conduct its supervisor elections in a month other than January, February, or March."	S
Alan	Chapman	Whatcom	Individual views as supervisor	I am not convinced of the value of a conservation month related to elections, though support for local districts might be in order. Perhaps sub areas might have separate conservation months.	O
FRANK	COREY	Whatcom	Individual views as district manager	The "Conservation Month" concept is intriguing. However, the best scenario is for the legislature to either fund these elections or require Counties to fund. The best scenario is to do County or District wide elections run by the County. Doing this in the spring like school districts have makes some amount of sense.	O
Tracy	Kier	Jefferson County	On behalf of my district	Would be in favor of this change.	S
Paul	Andersson	San Juan Islands	On behalf of my district	SIJCD supports this.	S
Craig	Nelson	Okanogan	On behalf of my district	The Okanogan CD Board of Supervisors are in support of holding our supervisor elections during a "Conservation Month".	S
roderick	camarce	Kitsap	Individual views as supervisor	sure sounds more uniform	S
Sharon	Call	Kitsap	Individual views as supervisor	I feel a "Conservation Month" should work for Districts.	S
Joy	Garitone	Kitsap	Individual views as district manager	This might help raise awareness if we were all doing it together.	O
Albert	Allpress	Kitsap	Individual views as supervisor	I believe the process works just fine the way it is. The conservation districts do not have money to put out to get an election done. The money we have is better spent performing the conservation tasks at hand. The supervisor positions are a volunteer position so any disclosure of personal background is not going to help the fact that folks are on the board for free. No reason to put oneself in that kind of position.	C
Shirley	St John	South Yakima	On behalf of my district	South Yakima Conservation District is in Favor of Districts Conducting Supervisor Elections during One Conservation Month. South Yakima Conservation District Board of Directors has Signed a Resolution sighting all of the above.	S
Kim	Williams	Clallam	Individual views as district manager	The idea of Conservation month would definitely help to educate the community on who and what we are. With this education, elections might feel less like a "popularity contest". March works best for our district.	S
Michael	Tobin	North Yakima	On behalf of my district	Currently "orca days" funding has come the WSCC / all special purpose districts...correct? Will the new Conservation Month come from the same pot? How will participation by individual Special purpose districts be folded into CAPP? just asking. Having "asked" we like the idea of increasing awareness of Local Special Purpose District Programs and if that increases participation by knowledgeable voters and or candidates so be it. If the goal is to simply increase the number of votes then the activities of this committee are misplaced. "Voter turn-out isn't a measure of a special purpose districts value to the natural resources it conserves, protects or enhances (notice we didn't say people...we serve natural resources first...by working with landowners... i.e. our purpose for existing). We need educated voters who understand the natural resources of our District Area and how those natural resources fit into watersheds, communities, cultural values etc...this should be the focus of conservation month. If we don't focus we will end up with issues that only a couple of CD's have that are threatening our purpose.	Q
Ronald	Juris	Eastern Klickitat	Individual views as supervisor	Could be a way to try to elevate the attention level of the voting public. The hard part will be finding a month that works just as well in King county as it does in Garfield or Klickitat. The commission will have to pick a month that makes all of us independent supervisors equally unhappy. ☺	O
Dean	Hellie	Stevens County	On behalf of my district	Election in November and like Conservation Commission providing state wide outreach	S
Elsa	Bowen	Lincoln County	On behalf of my district	LOVE THIS and the potential that it has to get all conservation district's recognized. A big pro for districts that don't have an outreach dedicated person. This options has the most pros vs cons.	S
Lynn	Simpson	Cowlitz	Individual views as supervisor	If Cowlitz CD does not hold elections in March with our annual meeting with Farm Foresters, we will have very few votes. They don't want to change the meeting month. Our last election had only supervisor votes and other past elections have had very few votes. This is the only way we have found to increase voting, despite all the advertising we have tried.	C
Gerald	Scheele	Spokane	Individual views as supervisor	This would be worth a try, even with the present system	S

John	Keatley	Cowlitz	Individual views as supervisor	Agree with current process expanded to vote all five positions and agree with more local outreach in each county and see no significant benefit to have a common month for elections as voters can only vote in one C.D. (even when some landowners have land in multiple districts.)	C
Tova	Tillinghast	Underwood	On behalf of my district	<p>Because we are often holding our plant sale in March, we would prefer either a mail-in-only ballot option or February as our election month.</p> <p>Although the Commission staff supporting CD elections may find they are overwhelmed when we're all doing our elections at the same time. It's essential to have responsive and capable Commission staff to help answer our questions in a timely manner.</p> <p>It's true that our messaging and outreach will be more effective by uniting around a "conservation month." This kind of unified outreach could be just as important if disassociated from our elections; outreach and CD elections do not necessarily need to be combined, and it also may not be realistic to organize a slew of outreach and expect immediate results in election turn-out the same month.</p> <p>The outreach effort could lead up to the elections, such as a Conservation Month which takes place when CDs are recruiting board candidates, and include outreach about elections that are scheduled to occur in the next month or two.</p>	O
Zorah	Oppenheimer	Clark	On behalf of my district	The Board and staff liked this idea so long as the month wasn't during Spring/Summer or November/December. We like March personally.	S
Mark	Nielson	Benton	On behalf of my district	This is okay. Since the RCW must be changed we suggest November as the Conservation Month to coincide with when most elections are held.	S
Mark	Nielson	Franklin	On behalf of my district	This is okay. Since the RCW must be changed, we suggest November as the Conservation Month to coincide with when most elections are held.	S

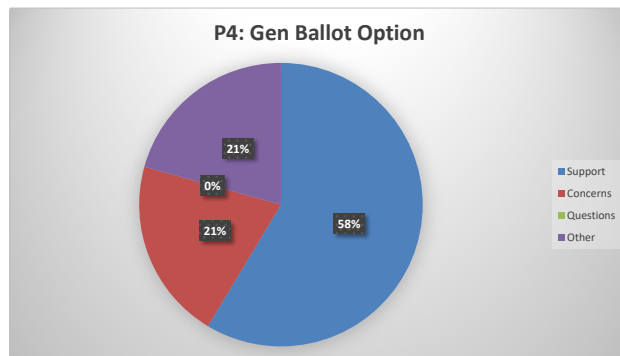
Support	15
Concern	3
Questions	2
Other	5



Name (First)	Name (Last)	Select your conservation district:	Are you commenting on behalf of your district or sharing your individual views as a supervisor or district manager?	Comments on Part 4/4: Districts have the option to go on the general election ballot	
Chris	Porter	King	Individual views as supervisor	Hello, While I appreciate the work that was done to write this proposal, it continues to fall short of the most important goals to achieve: Transparency, Equity, inclusiveness, and trust. As long as the elections remain hidden across the state, there is no true transparency, trust, inclusiveness, and equity. Allowing one CD to have their elections on the ballot is like appeasing the loudest voice, but believing it will allow the status quo to continue. As we look across this country and see laws and rules making it harder to vote, it should be our goal to ensure we are not doing the same or perpetuating the same. This proposal remains a great disappointment, because it places the needs of districts over the rights of the voters. It seeks to make everyone happy, while keeping a zone of silence about these elections. It is hard to believe that just about any and all elected positions in this state appear on a ballot and our accessible to all voters except the conservation districts. It is hard to believe that voters can pick up a pamphlet in any election and get information and make a decision about a candidate, except for conservation districts. It is hard to believe that voters can track just about any elected official, except for conservation district supervisors. It is hard to believe in 2021, we are still grappling with whether or not an old system of exclusion and lack of transparency will continue to be our legacy when there is a national effort to strengthen voting access and the right to vote. If this proposal becomes the way we continue to do business, which is to say that one distinct will change, we should all hang our heads in shame because protecting CDs continues to have greater importance than the voters that should and much have a greater say. Shame because there is not trust in this status quo.	C
David	Lange	Whitman	Individual views as supervisor	Too expensive for us, no comment	O
Al	Latham	Jefferson County	Individual views as supervisor	The slippery slope..... If some districts go on the general ballot there will be pressure or requirement for all districts to do so. There would need to be dedicated funding for each district to participate - in addition to the normal funding we receive from the state, not pulled out of operational or program funding. Without a gaurenteed separte source of funding for being on the general ballot i am against this.	C
Larry	Davis	Whatcom	Individual views as supervisor	I support giving CDs the option of running a general election ballot. I support CDs not being required to run a primary election. I support CD supervisors being exempt from PDC and personal financial filing requirements. COMMENT: it will be interesting to see if the expectation of increased voter turnout happens because of a CD going to the general election ballot.	S
Alan	Chapman	Whatcom	Individual views as supervisor	Support this option	S
FRANK	COREY	Whatcom	Individual views as district manager	The only long term solution is to put all CD elections on the general ballot. Either in the fall or a special spring election like school districts. Rather than proposing legislation to modify the current processes it makes more sense to propose legislation to fund special district elections on a general ballot.	O
Tracy	Kier	Jefferson County	On behalf of my district	Would be in favor of this change as long as it stays as an "option" for Districts who can afford it.	S
Paul	Andersson	San Juan Islands	On behalf of my district	SIJCD supports having this as an option though will not likely pursue it due to cost and complication of doing so.	S
Renee	Hadley	Walla Walla County	On behalf of my district	In general, our board of supervisors and regular public member attendees are ok with the 4 parts. However, we want to make clear that we support part 4 of 4 as long as OPTION does not become mandatory.	S
Craig	Nelson	Okanogan	On behalf of my district	The Okanogan CD Board of Supervisors are in support of Districts having the option to put their supervisor elections on the ballot. The Okanogan CD Board of Supervisors believe that decision should be made by each individual CD Board and nobody else.	S
roderick	camarce	Kitsap	Individual views as supervisor	okay that sounds good too	S
Kirstin	Haugen	King	On behalf of my district	We enthusiastically support this proposal.	S
Sharon	Howard	Kitsap	Individual views as supervisor	The term "option" has to stay in this section. In out county it is prohibitively expensive for small agencies to appear on the general ballot. Personally, I don't understand why the accounting strategies for elections is to spread their costs in such a way as to discourage participation by small entities. But that is a battle for another day.	O
Sharon	Call	Kitsap	Individual views as supervisor	Going on the general election ballot is a very costly method for District elections and difficult to fund.	O
Joy	Garitone	Kitsap	Individual views as district manager	As long as 'option' is firm. Going on the general ballot might work for larger and richer districts, but for most of our 45 districts it is unaffordable and completely unnecessary.	S
Joe	Holtrop	Jefferson County	Individual views as district manager	The cost of being on the general election is continually mentioned as being prohibitive. However, like is done in Oregon (and Idaho, I think), legislation can require counties to cover the miniscule additional cost of adding conservation districts to the ballot every other year. And the fear that every special purpose district would then want to have their costs covered can be dealt with by making it only apply to non-junior taxing districts. One can make the case that rates and charges is a tax, but it is technically different. Hopefully, the committee considered this.	O
Kim	Williams	Clallam	Individual views as district manager	I would prefer to not have anything to do the general ballot. Not only costs involved, but also not wanting to become a part of a partisan election.	O
Michael	Tobin	North Yakima	On behalf of my district	Absolutely not. NYCD is against this option. The current election process as set up by the legislature is and has worked well for the NYCD and the majority of the other 44 districts. It has allowed for engaged, knowledgeable and willing Supervisors to serve. With these attributes NYCD is fully meeting the true intent of the legislation as are other districts. We have always had a full Board that truly represents the Natural Resource priorities (as supported by data). Our Board comes to their position with a certain level of trust within our communities where natural resource priorities exist. Without that trust most of our special purpose district programs would be defunct. Their knowledge in countless situations have proven more valuable than any amount of funding and group hugs! It is a fact that politics is a real part of a few Districts. We would love to hear how this has improved their service to the Natural Resources (remember that's first not people). General Election ballots are political don't kid yourselves or try to pull the wool over our eyes. Go back to 1/4....don't fix it if its not broken. The WSCC, WACD, the legislator, a few CD's haven't proven to NYCD that there's a problem. How does using the general election process not violate each of the committees three guiding principals that were presented today to start the webinar?	C
Ronald	Juris	Eastern Klickitat	Individual views as supervisor	As long as the "option" doesn't get spilled over to everyone having to go this way, I can see where some of our CDs may need this to satisfy their constituents and the issues that they are dealing with. Lots of hard work and thinking went into this. Thanks to all the members who gave their time and energy to it. But keep your hard hats handy just in case. ☺	S
Gary	Ketcheson	Whidbey Island	Individual views as supervisor	I think this is an appropriate compromise for those districts that want the exposure and presence on the general ballot. I do have concerns that it could lead to pressure on all districts to be on the general ballot, and that would be financially devastating for some districts. While being on the general ballot reaches more of the electorate, I'm not sure it elevates the knowledge and understanding of Conservation Districts among a rather uninformed electorate. Having separate elections for CDs, if properly handled, could better inform and educate the electorate on CD programs. The only way I could really get behind this change is if I knew it would not start a domino effect on all districts.	S
Dean	Hellie	Stevens County	On behalf of my district	option to go on general not mandatory allow for self managed elections	S
Elsa	Bowen	Lincoln County	On behalf of my district	Absolutely not- even allowing just a couple to have the option really opens the door to forcing all districts on the ballot.	C

Lynn	Simpson	Cowlitz	Individual views as supervisor	As long as it remains an OPTION. We are afraid that legislators will grab onto this idea and require it for all districts. We have looked into this subject seriously and deeply with our county auditor and the cost would be prohibitively high - it would break our district financially and we would no longer exist.	S
Gerald	Scheele	Spokane	Individual views as supervisor	It would be good to have the option, but I think that just a few would go that route. I feel it would be way too costly, using up funds that would put a lot of conservation on the ground. I think there would be more voter turnout by emphasizing Part 3 above. There should also be an option to have Supervisors be appointed by the County legislative authority, like some other special purpose districts.	S
John	Keatley	Cowlitz	Individual views as supervisor	Support each district having the option to go on the general election ballot or not; perhaps the option could also include electing all five supervisors by conservation district ... We should recognize the risk; that if we want to make legislative changes we might not want some of what the legislature ultimately does.	S
Tova	Tillinghast	Underwood	On behalf of my district	It's very important to keep "the option," and NOT require everyone to go on the general ballot. As many CDs know, this could be extremely expensive, politicize our elections unnecessarily, and attract unhelpful attention. Since not all district boundaries align with county boundaries, there may be some unforeseen complications to being on a general ballot. In our district, we would have to be on two counties' general ballots and ensure that our district boundary is reflected accurately in the ballot distribution.	S
Zorah	Oppenheimer	Clark	On behalf of my district	The Board agreed to this so long as it was not a requirement. The language would need to be written such that it is very clear that there are two options and one isn't preferred over another. We are very concerned about an easy slide into a requirement to be on a general ballot.	S
Mark	Nielson	Benton	On behalf of my district	We have concerns. We are fearful that if a few conservation districts choose to go on the general election ballot then eventually the legislature will make it mandatory for all districts. We would suggest studying this further with, among other things, detailed analysis of the cost to each county. One option is to allow conservation districts to opt into the general election but then they would be authorized to unilaterally implement charges (without limitations) for district programs including election costs.	C
Mark	Nielson	Franklin	On behalf of my district	We have concerns. We are fearful that if a few conservation districts choose to go on the general election ballot then eventually the legislature will make it mandatory for all districts. We would suggest studying this further with detailed analysis of the cost to each county. One option is to allow conservation districts to opt into the general election but then they would be authorized to unilaterally implement charges (without limitations) for district programs including election costs.	C

Support	17
Concerns	6
Questions	0
Other	6



[Watch the full session here.](#)

Mark Craven calls the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m., and gives a brief summary of why the committee was formed. For years, there has been discussion about conservation district election reform, how to make things better. It's important to come up with solutions now. Some years back, there was an instance where a special purpose district was found to have inappropriately spent funds. This caused the legislature to say all special purpose districts should go on the general ballot. There was legislation for this, but it did not make it out of the committee. CDs saw this, and said that they want to be part of the solution, and at the forefront of the changes, not to be legislated and told what to do.

This Committee has been meeting every other week since mid-March. A lot of time and consideration went into this. Each committee member came into this with their own perspectives and opinions, and there were a wide variety of these. However, there are 45 CDs throughout the state, so committee members kept this in mind when coming up with a proposal. There are a few proposals, listed below, and information was given during the meeting from members of the JCE committee.

1. Districts would hold a supervisor election every other year (currently, all CDs hold an election every year) – Covered by Audrey Ahmaan

- Saves costs associated with conducting an election.
- Gives districts the option of choosing to run their election in either an odd or even year.

2. The term for all CD supervisors, both appointed and elected, would be extended. The JCE proposes extending to either a four- or six-year term (supervisors currently serve a three-year term) – Covered by Audrey Ahmaan

- When combined with part 1 (above):
 - i. If we propose a four-year term, two supervisors would be up for election during one election cycle, and one supervisor would be elected in the next cycle two years later.
 - ii. If we propose a six-year term, one supervisor position would come up for election every two years.
 - iii. Under the four- or six-year term scenario, the two appointed supervisor positions would be appointed by the Commission in “off years” when no election is held.
 - iv. For current supervisors, there is a process to modify the three-year term to a four- or six-year term.

- Reduces election costs
- Normalizes CD elections to match terms of several other elected positions
- Allows CDs to follow same schedules as other elections.

3. Districts would conduct supervisor elections during one Conservation Month (CDs currently hold elections in either January, February, or March)

– Covered by Cindy Reed

- Districts follow the current election process, but with more emphasis on local election outreach.
- All districts would conduct their election during one “Conservation Month” (month TBD). The SCC would coordinate broad statewide advertising/promotion of conservation districts and potential election opportunities throughout Conservation Month. The campaign will be developed in coordination with CDs, particularly with members of the Communications, Partnership, and Outreach (CPO) group, who have been building a foundation for this.
- Focusing the election in a Conservation Month would allow for broad communication and publicity of CDs and their work to a statewide audience.
- Goal would be to increase awareness of CDs and increase participation in CD elections.
- Cost of the “Conservation Month” publicity would be borne by the Commission.

4. Districts would have the option to go on the general election ballot –

Covered by Mike Nordin

- By a vote of the board of supervisors, a CD could choose to go on the general election ballot, rather than conduct the election under the current process.
- CD supervisors would not be required to run in a primary election, and, similar to cemetery districts, supervisors would be exempt from Public Disclosure Commission and personal financial filing requirements.
- Empowers each CD to make a local determination about which election approach works best for their communities and their district, consistent with our core value of locally led conservation.
- This option has the highest potential to increase voter turnout because it would be on the ballot with other entities.

Vicki Carter, Spokane, invited Vicky Dalton, Spokane County Auditor, to attend the session. Spokane CD has met with her regarding the cost of going on the general ballot. Ms. Dalton shares that she is appreciative of the work the JCE has accomplished. Going on the general ballot is expensive, and it would most likely be cost prohibitive for

Spokane CD. Ms. Dalton suggests putting forward a recommendation that is very tight, and make absolutely clear why there is more than one option. It is also likely that legislators will have to be educated every few years, and invites the JCE to work with the state's auditors to draft recommendations and legislation.

Mr. Nordin shares that the JCE has been thorough, and completely understands where Spokane CD is coming from. The JCE has met with state auditors, and has done a lot of thinking about these issues. Ms. Dalton shares that the state auditors are impressed and thrilled with the work of the JCE, especially the collaborative nature of the process.

Randy James, of the Spokane Conservation District, shares that it is good to put a conservation perspective on the cost. For one election, SCD could put in five private fish passage projects, fifty septic/sewer conversion projects, fifty forest home ignition zone projects, five full-time employees, and more. Mr. James shares it is important to put these things into perspective.

Mr. Craven shares that the JCE did think about these perspectives a lot, and by sharing them with the legislature, it will really display why it is not feasible for all CDs to go on the general ballot, and why the option/flexibility is the best option for all.

Mike Tobin, North Yakima CD, shares that the fourth option, the option to go on the general ballot, is the one that causes most concern surrounding potential politicization of elections. **How can we be sure politicization won't happen in elections when changed?**

Ron Shultz, SCC, shares that this was a concern shared and discussed during JCE meetings. This was one criticism, but in current elections, there is the most turnout when there is a controversy. It can also be politicized when candidates are seen as representing various political parties, which can have an effect on the district. There isn't a way to keep this from happening, as it is a part of the democratic process. Minimizing this is by making this an option for CDs.

Mr. Craven shares that during a meeting with Oregon CD representatives, this was brought up as a concern. Oregon representatives shared that elections were similar over the years, unless there was a controversy, and they haven't seen too many races become politicized. It is still a concern, it is still a worry, but Mr. Craven shares that he feels better after hearing from people who have been working with this system for many years.

Dawn Bekenyi, Whatcom CD, shares that previous elections became political when a candidate made them so. They were on the board for two years, and have been gone for two years, and are still politically based. Ms. Bekenyi is concerned that with the option of going on the general ballot that in the current climate and community, would be forced as 100% grant funded to go on the general ballot with no way to pay for it. She is worried it will be perceived as trying to hide something from voters by not going on the general ballot.

Zorah Oppenheimer, Clark CD, shares that the board likes the option of going on the ballot every other year, but the four- or six-year term felt like a lot. The board suggests a two-year farmer term, with an option to renew. **Would Conservation Month elections apply to all districts, or only districts running their own election?**

Mr. Shultz shares that all district elections would be held during Conservation Month, but if some districts were on the ballot, they would not hold their elections during Conservation Month.

Mr. Craven expands on the idea about Conservation Month. One of the reasons behind this is that there's a common saying that CDs are the state's "best kept secret." There has been discussion for years about engaging with community, teaching the community about what CDs do, etc.

Mr. Shultz shares that one of the criticisms from the legislature is surrounding voter turnout. Because it is so low, he is curious about what the group thinks about how that can be addressed.

Mr. Tobin answers that high voter turnout does not always mean a better district. There is a difference between legislative authority and special purpose district. Legislators created CDs, but the two are not the same.

Al Latham shares the perspective that although the turnout is low, they are generally well educated on the issues or people being voted for. Ms. Bekenyi disputes that, saying that in the past with the politicization, voters haven't known much about what or who they are voting for.

Jerry Sheele asks if someone can explain how the governing bodies of other special purpose districts are chosen, appointment or election.

Mr. Shultz explains that special purpose districts and how those boards are chosen are set by the legislature. Irrigation Districts are one entity whose elections function like ours. Generally, those that are elected or go on a general ballot are special purpose districts who have taxing authority (i.e. fire districts), which is a reason as to why they are on the general ballot.

Ms. Bekenyi shares that her board is not a fan of the six-year term, it felt too daunting. The four-year term is more favorable.

Alan Chapman asks if there was any discussion relative to the issue of increasing the number of supervisors, or making all supervisors elected.

Mr. Craven responds, saying that they are still leaving two supervisors appointed by the Commission, and three being elected. Every other year elections provides lower election cost for districts. There was much discussion surrounding the specific question Mr. Chapman posed.

The other aspect of four-year terms provides another benefit for the SCC, with on and off years for elections and appointments.

Q: If you went to the general ballot, would that be the November election?

Yes, the more that is on the ballot, the lower the cost for the districts. November elections provide the most issues on the ballot. Even years are reserved for partisan races, and odd years are reserved for non-partisan races. The way the proposal was written is to provide the option for even or odd years.

Ms. Meyer shares some background on the Communications, Partnership, and Outreach (CPO) group, who have been working on the foundations of Conservation Month. If this option is chosen, there will be much work done already.

Q: If there was a financial change in the district, what is the district supposed to do if they have to pay for the general ballot? Can they go back and forth?

A: That's a great question, and should be addressed as the recommendation is written. Something that should be talked more about in upcoming meetings.

Q: When you say next year, does that mean beginning to work the legislature in the 2022 session, or is that a goal of having something ready to go and implementing next year?

A: The idea is to begin presenting to the legislature next year. There is still some unknown because of the ongoing pandemic. The goal is to begin presenting before something is presented without CD's input.

Mr. Shultz shares what is next for the committee. Comments are due by August 18, 2021. Staff will compile these comments for the August 25 JCE meeting. At this meeting, they will finalize whatever recommendation will be presenting to the commission at their September meeting.

All these options will require a statutory change. If the Commission chooses one, some, or all of these options to advance, there will be a lot of work to do to begin drafting legislation, engaging legislators, etc. The goal is to have the statutory changes complete in the upcoming legislative session.

Mr. Craven adjourns the meeting at 12:40 p.m.



PACIFIC CONSERVATION DISTRICT
904 WEST ROBERT BUSH DRIVE
P.O. Box 336
SOUTH BEND, WA 98586
PHONE (360) 875-6735

8/4/2021

To the Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC),

In regards to "Election Reform Proposal (Draft)",
Pacific Conservation District (PCD) response: PCD Resolution #8-21-1, unanimously approved.

The PCD Board of Supervisors, on August 4, 2021, unanimously approved the following;
"The PCD BOS support the JCE Draft Proposal for CD Election Reform Parts 1-4, with these preferences or changes.

1. PCD BOS prefers 6-year terms instead of 4-year terms.
2. PCD BOS supports a "Conservation Month", but would prefer that this month would not be held in November.
3. PCD BOS holds steadfast that CD's are NOT required to be on the general ballot, and that CD's that choose to be on the general ballot pay for their own effort on the general ballot.
4. PCD BOS also is firm on Supervisors being exempt from Public Disclosure Commission filing requirements.

Thank You for your time and consideration,

Allen Loughheed, PCD Chair
August 4th, 2021



Washington State Conservation Commission

September 16, 2021

TO: Conservation Commission Members
Carol Smith, SCC Executive Director

FROM: Lori Gonzalez, WSCC Executive Assistant and Public Records Officer
Ron Shultz, WSCC Policy Director

SUBJECT: Public Records Requests Rulemaking

Action Item

X

Informational Item

Summary:

All state agencies are required by statute to adopt rules relating to public records requests. The Conservation Commission does not have such rules. Commission approval is sought for the initiation of rulemaking for agency rules relating to public records requests.

Requested Action (if action item):

Approval for staff to proceed with the rulemaking process for agency rules relating to public records requests.

Staff Contact:

Lori Gonzalez, WSCC Executive Assistant lgonzalez@scc.wa.gov
Ron Shultz, WSCC Policy Director rshultz@scc.wa.gov

Background

Pursuant to RCW 42.56.030 all state agencies must currently publish in the state Washington Administrative Code (WAC):

- Descriptions of its central and field organization and the established places at which, the employees from whom, and the methods whereby, the public may obtain information, make submittals or requests, or obtain copies of agency decisions;
- Statements of the general course and method by which its operations are channeled and determined, including the nature and requirements of all formal and informal procedures available;
- Rules of procedure;
- Substantive rules of general applicability adopted as authorized by law, and statements of general policy or interpretations of general applicability formulated and adopted by the agency; and

e) Each amendment or revision to, or repeal of any of the foregoing.

The Conservation Commission has no such rules in the agency WACs. The purpose of this request is for the Commission to approve Commission staff to proceed with rulemaking to comply with this statutory requirement.

Although there is a template for such rules for agencies to use, most agencies will vary from the template to meet their agency's particular needs. For example, the Washington Department of Agriculture (WSDA) rule includes a section on records statutorily exempt from disclosure. We will include a similar section in our rule.

It's not necessary for the Commission to approve the draft rule language at this time. Only to approve submittal of the appropriate paperwork to the code reviser's office to begin the process. The Commission will have the opportunity to review the rule at a later date, and will give final approval to the rule after a public hearing has been held.

Rulemaking Process:

If the Commission approves the initiation of the rulemaking process for agency rules relating to public records requests, Commission staff will file the CR-101 with the state Code Reviser to begin the rulemaking process. This document is a statement of the agency's intent to initiate rules on a topic. Following this, Commission staff will work with staff from the Code Reviser's Office to finalize the rule language. We will then file a CR-102, which includes the proposed rule language and specifies the date(s) and process for public review and comment, including a public hearing. Following receipt of comments, Commission staff will finalize the draft rule and submit it to the Commission for final approval. Once approval is received, staff will file a CR-103 with the Code Reviser for final inclusion in the agency's rules

Recommended Action and Options (if action item):

Commission staff recommends approval of the initiation of the rulemaking process for agency rules relating to public records requests.

Next Steps:

If the Commission approves the initiation of the rulemaking process for agency rules relating to public records requests, Commission staff will implement the rulemaking process as described previously in this memo.



Washington State Conservation Commission

September 16, 2021

TO: Conservation Commission Members
Carol Smith, SCC Executive Director

FROM: Lori Gonzalez, WSCC Executive Assistant and Policy Development Lead
Ron Shultz, WSCC Policy Director

SUBJECT: Investigations Hearing Rulemaking

Action Item

☒

Informational Item

☐

Summary:

Commission staff are in the process of reviewing a variety of agency policies and making changes or updates as needed. In some cases, new policies are needed. One area where a new policy is needed is in the area of complaints regarding the conduct of conservation district supervisors. Due to the recent decision in *Johnson v. State Conservation Commission*, the Commission must have a rule for the conduct of a hearing when considering whether to remove a district supervisor. This memo provides background on the draft rule and requests approval to begin rulemaking.

Requested Action (if action item):

Approval for staff to proceed with the rulemaking process for hearings relating to the investigation and removal of a conservation district supervisor.

Staff Contact:

Lori Gonzalez, WSCC Executive Assistant lgonzalez@scc.wa.gov
Ron Shultz, WSCC Policy Director rshultz@scc.wa.gov

Background

The Conservation Commission has statutory authority to remove a conservation district supervisor in a narrow set of circumstances. According to statute, “a supervisor may be removed by the state conservation commission upon notice and hearing, for neglect of duty or malfeasance in office, but for no other reason.” RCW 89.08.200. There is no other statutory language providing guidance on what the notice process is to be, or how such a hearing is to be conducted. The Commission currently has no policy or rule on how these matters are to be undertaken.

In 2018, following receipt of complaints regarding the conduct of certain supervisors at the Thurston Conservation District, the Commission initiated an investigation process to determine if the complaints had merit to consider potential removal of the supervisors. Following the results of the investigation, and because the Commission has no rule or process for the statutory requirement for a hearing before removal, the Commission consulted their Assistant Attorney General and developed a process for conduct of the hearing for potential removal. The process was developed and the hearing was conducted. The subject supervisors contested the format of the hearing.

Following action by the Commission to remove the two supervisors, the subject supervisors appealed the decision based on the process used. The case started at Thurston County Superior Court and ultimately reached the State District Court. The District Court issued its decision on February 9, 2021. This decision was appealed to the State Supreme Court, who denied hearing the appeal on June 7, 2021 the Supreme Court denied review, effectively ending appeals in the case.

But the decision of the Court of Appeals still stands. In that decision, the court faulted the Commission for failing to follow the appropriate process consistent with the state Administrative Procedures Act (APA). However, the process used by the Commission did not deprive the supervisors of their rights, therefore there was no harm in the result.

With this decision, it's clear the Commission must adopt rules for the hearing process when considering the removal of a conservation district supervisor.

Through this memo, Commission staff request the Commission's approval to begin the rulemaking process for such a rule. The APA rule for hearing and action upon the hearing findings is a template rule prepared by the Office of Administrative Hearings. These rules are consistent with the state APA statute which states: "Each agency shall adopt as much of the model rules as is reasonable under its circumstances." RCW 34.05.250. Adoption of these rules is also consistent with advise from our Assistant Attorney General that, to be responsive to the Court of Appeals decision relating to the conduct of the hearing, the Commission should adopt rules.

It should be noted; the proposed rules are only part of the policy for reviewing complaints against conservation district supervisors. There is a policy currently under development for how such complaints will be handled in an initial review phase to determine merit. The Commission will be presented with this policy for review at a later date. The policy under development and this proposed rule will form one complete package for Commission review. But because the timeline for rulemaking can be long, we are requesting approval to begin the rulemaking process now so that the rule and the policy can proceed in tandem.

It's necessary for the Commission to review or approve the text of the proposed rule at this time, only approval of the initiation of the process.

Rulemaking Process:

If the Commission approves the initiation of the rulemaking process for agency rules relating to public records requests, Commission staff will file the CR-101 with the state Code Reviser to begin the rulemaking process. This document is a statement of the agency's intent to initiate rules on a topic. Following this, Commission staff will work with staff from the Code Reviser's Office to finalize the rule language. We will then file a CR-102, which includes the proposed rule language and specifies the date(s) and process for public review and comment, including a public hearing. Following receipt of comments, Commission staff will finalize the draft rule and submit it to the Commission for final approval. Once approval is received, staff will file a CR-103 with the Code Reviser for final inclusion in the agency's rules

Recommended Action and Options (if action item):

Commission staff recommends approval of the initiation of the rulemaking process for agency rules relating to a hearing for possible removal of a district supervisor consistent with statute and recent court decisions.

Next Steps:

If the Commission approves the initiation of the rulemaking process for agency rules relating to public records requests, Commission staff will implement the rulemaking process as described previously in this memo.

TAB 2



Washington State Conservation Commission

September 16, 2021

TO: Conservation Commission Members
Carol Smith, SCC Executive Director

FROM: Sarah Groth, Fiscal Manager

SUBJECT: Fiscal Year 22 & Biennium 19-21 close update

Action Item

☐

Informational Item

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Summary:

SCC recently completed the closing of our fiscal year 22 and Biennium 19-21 financials and reports in compliance with OFM's deadlines.

SCC finance staff processed over 550 vouchers for over \$8,500,000 in reimbursements to districts, counties and contractors from June 1, 2021 - August 15, 2021.

Over all SCC is returning a very small amount in operating funding, approximately \$646,915 out of \$ 16,952,000 or just under 4%, Given the uncertainty that continued into fiscal year 2022 our districts, Regional Managers and fiscal staff worked hard, and were in frequent contact about the status of projects and funding balances to ensure the least of amount of funding was returned.

For our capital programs we have large enough re-approp balances to be to have all capital funds qualify for re-approp, meaning we will not be returning any capital funding.

For some perspective biennium ending 17-19 SCC returned approximately 8.5% in operating funds and approximately 0.5% in capital funds.

Staff Contact:

Sarah Groth, Fiscal Manager

Next Steps (if informational item):

SCC financial staff will continue to closely monitor all budgets and appropriations and will continue to provide reports and updates to support program staff, Regional Managers, Executive Director and staff to ensure we utilizing the funding in accordance with state and federal laws, and all programmatic guidelines.

4710 - State Conservation Commission

Appropriations Versus Actuals - Operating and Capital

Report Number: CAF040

Biennium: 2021

As of Fiscal Month: Adj FY2

Date Run: Sep 3, 2021 9:09: AM

Transactions Sep 2, 2021 8:00PM

EA	EA Title	EA	Total Biennium		FY1	Biennium to Date		Total	Variance	Notes
			Legislative	Reserves		Expenditures				
			Appropriation			FY2				
<u>Account 001 - General Fund</u>										
011	Salaries and Expenses - FY 1	1	7,275,000.00	0.00	6,943,359.31	0.00	6,943,359.31	331,640.69	Returned Funds Per Request of OFM for COVID-19 response	
012	Salaries and Expenses - FY 2	1	6,479,000.00	0.00	0.00	6,432,595.41	6,432,595.41	46,404.59		
020	Salaries and Expenses	2	2,482,000.00	0.00	348,740.50	432,187.82	780,928.32	1,701,071.68	Federal Authority	
031	Landowners/Salmon/Orcas	1	500,000.00	0.00	500,000.00	0.00	500,000.00	0.00		
032	Landowners/Salmon/Orcas	1	500,000.00	0.00	0.00	477,446.70	477,446.70	22,553.30		
051	Food Policy Forum	1	50,000.00	0.00	50,000.00	0.00	50,000.00	0.00		
052	Food Policy Forum	1	50,000.00	0.00	0.00	46,455.70	46,455.70	3,544.30		
091	Review of Grant Programs	1	20,000.00	0.00	20,000.00	0.00	20,000.00	0.00		
112	WA Food Policy Forum	1	59,000.00	0.00	0.00	56,546.74	56,546.74	2,453.26		
152	Sustainable Farms and Fields	1	99,000.00	0.00	0.00	40,270.43	40,270.43	58,729.57		
P25	Match for Federal RCPP Program	2	1,600,000.00	0.00	45,715.24	51,797.42	97,512.66	1,502,487.34		
Account 001 - General Fund			Total	19,114,000.00	0.00	7,907,815.05	7,537,300.22	15,445,115.27	3,668,884.73	
<u>Account 057 - State Building Construction Account</u>										
A00	2019-21 Improve Shellfish Growing Areas	1	3,000,000.00	0.00	394,606.74	1,829,894.91	2,224,501.65	775,498.35	This falls within our re-approp amounts, we do not have any returned funds	
A01	2019-21 Natural Resource Investments	1	4,000,000.00	0.00	379,716.30	2,718,360.34	3,098,076.64	901,923.36	This falls within our re-approp amounts, we do not have any returned funds	
A02	2019-21 Match for Federal RCPP	1	6,249,000.00	0.00	2,425,524.03	246,619.12	2,672,143.15	3,576,856.85	This falls within our re-approp amounts, we do not have any returned funds	
A03	2019-21 Water Irrigation Efficiencies Program	1	4,000,000.00	0.00	0.00	120,000.00	120,000.00	3,880,000.00	This falls within our re-approp amounts, we do not have any returned funds	
A05	2019-21 CREP Riparian Contract Funding	1	1,900,000.00	0.00	648,755.14	1,135,708.29	1,784,463.43	115,536.57	This falls within our re-approp amounts, we do not have any returned funds	
A06	2019-21 CREP Riparian Cost Share - State Match	1	1,800,000.00	0.00	775,156.99	(249,174.51)	525,982.48	1,274,017.52	This falls within our re-approp amounts, we do not have any returned funds	
A07	North Cove Erosion Control	1	1,000,000.00	0.00	410,669.90	425,569.55	836,239.45	163,760.55	These funds will be returned as they were proviso for the North Cove project	
T64	Conservation Commission Ranch & Farmland	1	4,974,000.00	0.00	142,860.07	4,639,112.41	4,781,972.48	192,027.52	This falls within our re-approp amounts, we do not have any returned funds	
U05	CREP Riparian Cost Share - State Match 2	1	1,553,418.00	0.00	0.00	1,553,418.00	1,553,418.00	0.00		
U28	Match for Federal RCPP Program 2017-19	1	3,033,382.00	0.00	242.65	3,033,139.35	3,033,382.00	0.00		
U55	CREP Riparian Contract Funding 2017-19	1	509,190.00	0.00	509,190.00	0.00	509,190.00	0.00		
U78	Natural Resource Investment for the Econ	1	800,000.00	0.00	800,000.00	0.00	800,000.00	0.00		
U89	Improve Shellfish Growing Areas 2017-19	1	800,000.00	0.00	800,000.00	0.00	800,000.00	0.00		
Account 057 - State Building Construction Account			Total	33,618,990.00	0.00	7,286,721.82	15,452,647.46	22,739,369.28	10,879,620.72	
<u>Account 058 - Public Works Assistance Account</u>										
090	Voluntary Stewardship Program	1	8,456,000.00	0.00	3,013,675.21	4,930,855.09	7,944,530.30	511,469.70		

Report purpose: The variance for each Expenditure Authority (EA) should be zero or a positive amount. The reserved amounts are not available for agencies to spend. Only includes EA types 1, 2, 4, 7 and 8 (legislative appropriations); legislative appropriation from current biennium EA schedule; reserve amounts in GL 6310; and expenditures in GLs 6505, 6510 and 6560. Refer to RCW 43.88.070. The legislative appropriation column data is from the TALS system and is real time data.

Page: 1

4710 - State Conservation Commission*Appropriations Versus Actuals - Operating and Capital*

Report Number: CAF040

Biennium: 2021

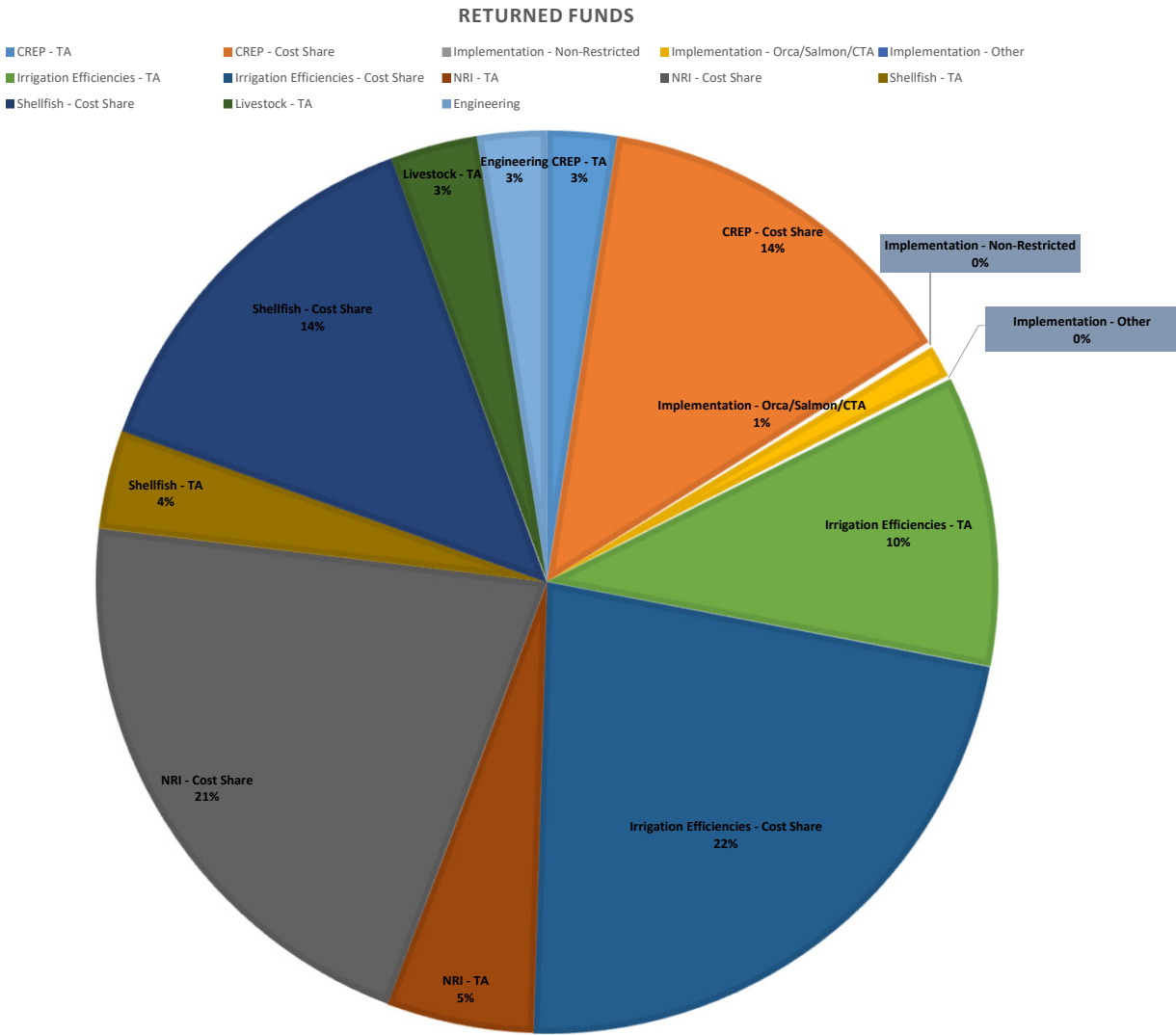
As of Fiscal Month: Adj FY2

Date Run: Sep 3, 2021 9:09: AM

Transactions Sep 2, 2021 8:00PM

EA	EA Title	EA Type	Total Biennium	Biennium to Date				
			Legislative	Expenditures	Reserves	FY1	FY2	Total
			Appropriation					
<u>Account 23P - Model Toxics Control Operating Account</u>								
010	Soil Health Initiative	1	55,000.00	0.00	0.00	55,000.00	55,000.00	
110	Salaries and Expenses	1	1,000,000.00	0.00	105,000.00	893,239.12	998,239.12	
Account 23P - Model Toxics Control Operating Account		Total	1,055,000.00	0.00	105,000.00	948,239.12	1,053,239.12	1,760.88
<u>Account 489 - Pension Funding Stabilization Acct</u>								
050	Salaries and Expenses	1	254,000.00	0.00	127,000.00	127,000.00	254,000.00	
<u>Account 552 - Conservation Assistance Revolving Account</u>								
A04	2019-21 CREP PIP Loan Program	1	100,000.00	0.00	16,666.60	(16,666.60)	0.00	
A08	CREP PIP Loan Program 2017-19	1	350,000.00	0.00	0.00	31,171.80	31,171.80	
Account 552 - Conservation Assistance Revolving Account		Total	450,000.00	0.00	16,666.60	14,505.20	31,171.80	418,828.20
Agency 4710 - State Conservation Commission		Total	62,947,990.00	0.00	18,456,878.68	29,010,547.09	47,467,425.77	15,480,564.23

Major Programs Program	Total
CREP - TA	\$ 42,258.65
CREP - Cost Share	\$ 227,909.90
Implementation - Non-Restricted	\$ 4,099.16
Implementation - Orca/Salmon/CTA	\$ 19,466.07
Implementation - Other	\$ 2,258.15
Irrigation Efficiencies - TA	\$ 175,508.92
Irrigation Efficiencies - Cost Share	\$ 378,224.18
NRI - TA	\$ 88,962.62
NRI - Cost Share	\$ 355,650.00
Shellfish - TA	\$ 59,888.80
Shellfish - Cost Share	\$ 234,669.37
Livestock - TA	\$ 52,689.93
Engineering	\$ 41,736.98
Total Returned Major Programs	\$ 1,683,322.73



% shown is % of total returned funds for the major programs. Programs like Task Orders, NEP and Soil Health are not included in these totals.

Returned Grant Funds by District

Between Start Date: 7/1/2019 and End Date: 8/23/2021

Program	Grant #	Program Index	Project	Returned Funds	Closeout Amount
Adams					
Natural Resource Investments	20-27-NR	20000	NSCS	\$20,000.00	\$17,344.50
		20000	NSTA	\$5,000.00	\$3,544.01
Total Returned Funds for Adams				\$25,000.00	\$20,888.51
Asotin County					
CREP TA and Cost Share	20-48-CE	30000	CRCS	\$0.00	\$3,010.66
Livestock TA	20-48-LT	20000	NSLA	\$0.00	\$0.82
Natural Resource Investments	20-48-NR	20000	NSCS	\$0.00	\$15,248.76
		20000	NSTA	\$0.00	\$27,216.78
WSDA Soil Health / SFF	21-48-SO	78000		\$0.00	\$166.25
Total Returned Funds for Asotin County				\$0.00	\$45,643.27
Benton					
Implementation	21-32-IM	51000		\$0.00	\$5.20
		54000		\$0.00	\$4.90
Natural Resource Investments	20-32-NR	20000	NSCS	\$48,206.41	\$1,793.59
		20000	NSTA	\$4,177.90	\$0.00
WSDA Soil Health / SFF	21-32-SO	78000		\$0.00	\$3,463.31
Total Returned Funds for Benton				\$52,384.31	\$5,267.00
Cascadia					
Irrigation Efficiencies Technical Assistance	20-20-IE	70000	IETA	\$0.00	\$324.17
Natural Resource Investments	20-20-NR	20000	NSCS	\$1,981.12	\$13,725.37
		20000	NSTA	\$0.00	\$836.46
NRCS TP 1st Task Orders	20-20-TP1	60500	FCTA	\$0.00	\$11,100.00
		60500	SCTA	\$0.00	\$3,700.00
TP 2nd Task Order	20-20-TP2	20000	CREQ	\$1,340.25	\$0.00
		60500	FEQP	\$4,020.75	\$0.00
TP 3rd Task Order	20-20-TP3	20000	CREQ	\$0.00	\$897.50
		60500	FCSP	\$0.00	\$1,792.50
		60500	FCTA	\$0.00	\$900.00
TP 6th Task Order	20-20-TP6	60500	SCTA	\$0.00	\$827.25
		60500	FCTA	\$0.00	\$2,481.75
Total Returned Funds for Cascadia				\$7,342.12	\$36,585.00
Central Klickitat					
Implementation	21-34-IM	54000		\$0.00	\$372.29
WSDA Soil Health / SFF	21-34-SO	78000		\$0.00	\$10.59
Total Returned Funds for Central Klickitat				\$0.00	\$382.88
Clallam					
CREP TA and Cost Share	20-01-CE	30000	CRCS	\$0.00	\$10,441.79
		30000	CRTA	\$0.00	\$244.12
Implementation	21-01-IM	51000		\$0.00	\$24.79
Irrigation Efficiencies Technical Assistance	20-01-IE	70000	IECS	\$0.00	\$48,815.47
		70000	IETA	\$0.00	\$168,757.27
Natural Resource Investments	20-01-NR	20000	NSCS	\$3,975.52	\$0.00
		20000	NSTA	\$2,767.85	\$0.00
Shellfish	20-01-SH	20000	SHTA	\$8,969.51	\$0.00
		20000	SHCS	\$41,781.72	\$0.00
Total Returned Funds for Clallam				\$57,494.60	\$228,283.44

Program	Grant #	Program Index	Project	Returned Funds	Closeout Amount
Clark					
Livestock TA	20-18-LT	20000	NSLA	\$0.00	\$6.59
Natural Resource Investments	20-18-NR	20000	NSTA	\$0.00	\$66.99
Total Returned Funds for Clark				\$0.00	\$73.58
Columbia					
CREP TA and Cost Share	20-46-CE	30000	CRTA	\$0.00	\$14,148.73
		30000	CRCS	\$0.00	\$19,147.67
Implementation	21-46-IM	51000		\$0.00	\$20.82
Irrigation Efficiencies Technical Assistance	20-46-IE	70000	IETA	\$0.00	\$6,413.29
Natural Resource Investments	20-46-NR	20000	NSCS	\$0.00	\$11,778.37
		20000	NSTA	\$0.00	\$5,996.25
TP 2nd Task Order	20-46-TP2	60500	SCRCP	\$0.00	\$441.00
		60500	FCRP	\$0.00	\$1,323.00
TP 3rd Task Order	20-46-TP3	60500	FCRP	\$0.00	\$343.01
		60500	SCRCP	\$0.00	\$114.33
TP 4th Task Order	20-46-TP4	60500	SCRCP	\$0.00	\$82.63
		60500	FCRP	\$0.00	\$247.87
WSDA Soil Health / SFF	21-46-SO	78000		\$0.00	\$4,005.50
Total Returned Funds for Columbia				\$0.00	\$64,062.47
Cowlitz					
CREP TA and Cost Share	20-17-CE	30000	CRTA	\$0.00	\$6,660.32
Natural Resource Investments	20-17-NR	20000	NSTA	\$0.00	\$13,144.31
		20000	NSCS	\$0.00	\$20,289.87
Total Returned Funds for Cowlitz				\$0.00	\$40,094.50
Eastern Klickitat					
Implementation	21-35-IM	54000		\$0.00	\$1,204.74
WSDA Soil Health / SFF	21-35-SO	78000		\$0.00	\$32.19
Total Returned Funds for Eastern Klickitat				\$0.00	\$1,236.93
Ferry					
Implementation	21-36-IM	51000		\$0.00	\$0.21
		51000	EMER	\$0.00	\$0.45
Natural Resource Investments	20-36-NR	20000	NSCS	\$32,425.00	\$0.00
		20000	NSTA	\$7,601.05	\$0.00
Total Returned Funds for Ferry				\$40,026.05	\$0.66
Foster Creek					
Implementation	21-21-IM	51000		\$0.00	\$1,016.21
		51000	EMER	\$0.00	\$1,032.66
		54000		\$0.00	\$663.25
NRCS TP 1st Task Orders	20-21-TP1	60500	FCSP	\$176.25	\$0.00
		60500	SCSP	\$58.75	\$0.00
TP 2nd Task Order	20-21-TP2	60500	SEQP	\$0.00	\$255.00
		60500	FEQP	\$0.00	\$765.00
TP 4th Task Order	20-21-TP4	60500	SEQP	\$0.00	\$147.00
		60500	FEQP	\$0.00	\$441.00
TP 8th Task Order	20-21-TP8	60500	FEQP	\$0.00	\$606.00
		60500	SEQP	\$0.00	\$202.00
Total Returned Funds for Foster Creek				\$235.00	\$5,128.12

Program	Grant #	Program Index	Project	Returned Funds	Closeout Amount
Franklin					
Implementation	21-33-IM	51000		\$0.00	\$53.38
		54000		\$0.00	\$7.08
Livestock TA	20-33-LT	20000	NSLA	\$0.00	\$415.31
Natural Resource Investments	20-33-NR	20000	NSTA	\$1,038.22	\$3.04
		20000	NSCS	\$18,750.00	\$1,360.00
Professional Engineering	21-33-PE	52000		\$0.00	\$36,637.54
TP 4th Task Order	20-33-TP4	60500	FCRP	\$0.00	\$274.72
		60500	SCRCP	\$0.00	\$91.57
TP 5th Task Order	20-33-TP5	60500	FCRP	\$0.00	\$372.00
		60500	SCRCP	\$0.00	\$124.00
WSDA Soil Health / SFF	21-33-SO	78000		\$0.00	\$2,091.27
Total Returned Funds for Franklin				\$19,788.22	\$41,429.91
Grant County					
Natural Resource Investments	20-49-NR	20000	NSTA	\$2,569.86	\$0.00
		20000	NSCS	\$33,000.00	\$0.00
Soil Health	18-49-TS	62000	SSOL	\$0.00	\$5,245.95
		62000	FSOL	\$0.00	\$7,868.93
TP 2nd Task Order	20-49-TP2	60500	FCRP	\$0.00	\$5,940.00
		60500	SCRCP	\$0.00	\$1,980.00
TP 3rd Task Order	20-49-TP3	60500	FCRP	\$0.00	\$3,105.00
		60500	SCRCP	\$0.00	\$1,035.00
Total Returned Funds for Grant County				\$35,569.86	\$25,174.88
Grays Harbor					
CREP TA and Cost Share	20-11-CE	30000	CRCS	\$0.00	\$1,046.00
Implementation	21-11-IM	51000		\$0.00	\$58.27
		54000		\$0.00	\$11.06
Natural Resource Investments	20-11-NR	20000	NSTA	\$7,222.77	\$53.01
		20000	NSCS	\$40,000.00	\$8,188.68
NRCS TP 1st Task Orders	20-11-TP1	60500	SCTA	\$0.00	\$3,828.58
		60500	FCTA	\$0.00	\$11,485.76
Professional Engineering	21-11-PE	52000		\$0.00	\$5,060.90
Shellfish	20-11-SH	20000	SHCS	\$0.00	\$4,757.02
Total Returned Funds for Grays Harbor				\$47,222.77	\$34,489.28
Jefferson County					
CREP TA and Cost Share	20-02-CE	30000	CRCS	\$0.00	\$0.70
		30000	CRTA	\$0.00	\$744.29
Drought	19-02-DR	76000		\$0.00	\$57.75
Livestock TA	20-02-LT	20000	SHLA	\$0.00	\$20,743.38
Natural Resource Investments	20-02-NR	20000	NSTA	\$9,453.64	\$2.29
		20000	NSCS	\$50,155.75	\$10,279.62
Shellfish	20-02-SH	20000	SHCS	\$21,736.05	\$0.00
		20000	SHTA	\$1,008.68	\$0.00
Total Returned Funds for Jefferson County				\$82,354.12	\$31,828.03
King					
CREP TA and Cost Share	20-09-CE	30000	CRCS	\$0.00	\$5,388.00
Livestock TA	20-09-LT	20000	SHLA	\$0.00	\$3,359.37
Natural Resource Investments	20-09-NR	20000	NSCS	\$30,000.00	\$0.00
		20000	NSTA	\$9,672.68	\$0.00
NRCS TP 1st Task Orders	20-09-TP1	60500	SCTA	\$0.00	\$1,950.00
		60500	FCTA	\$0.00	\$5,850.00
Shellfish	20-09-SH	20000	SHTA	\$6,962.35	\$0.00
		20000	SHCS	\$34,533.75	\$0.00
Total Returned Funds for King				\$81,168.78	\$16,547.37

Program	Grant #	Program Index	Project	Returned Funds	Closeout Amount
Kitsap					
CREP TA and Cost Share	20-08-CE	30000	CRTA	\$0.00	\$7.87
Implementation	21-08-IM	54000		\$0.00	\$16.46
		95000		\$0.00	\$18.32
Livestock TA	20-08-LT	20000	SHLA	\$0.00	\$38.03
Natural Resource Investments	20-08-NR	20000	NSCS	\$0.00	\$903.69
		20000	NSTA	\$0.00	\$8.23
Shellfish	20-08-SH	20000	SHCS	\$7.74	\$1,644.94
		20000	SHTA	\$30.58	\$42.01
Total Returned Funds for Kitsap				\$38.32	\$2,679.55
Kittitas County					
CREP TA and Cost Share	20-28-CE	30000	CRTA	\$0.00	\$1,284.00
Implementation	21-28-IM	51000		\$0.00	\$3.48
		54000		\$0.00	\$147.36
Irrigation Efficiencies Technical Assistance	20-28-IE	70000	IETA	\$0.00	\$5.68
Natural Resource Investments	20-28-NR	20000	NSTA	\$33,505.07	\$0.00
		20000	NSCS	\$50,000.00	\$0.00
Professional Engineering	21-28-PE	52000		\$0.00	\$6.69
Total Returned Funds for Kittitas County				\$83,505.07	\$1,447.21
Lewis					
CREP TA and Cost Share	20-15-CE	30000	CRTA	\$0.00	\$27.90
		30000	CRCS	\$0.00	\$17,125.56
Implementation	21-15-IM	51000		\$0.00	\$16.03
		95000		\$0.00	\$36.05
Natural Resource Investments	20-15-NR	20000	NSCS	\$122,086.21	\$4,611.68
		20000	NSTA	\$35,018.91	\$743.67
Total Returned Funds for Lewis				\$157,105.12	\$22,560.89
Lincoln County					
Hazard Mitigation	21-39-HZ	64000	FEMD	\$0.00	\$560.87
Implementation	21-39-IM	51000		\$0.00	\$303.86
		54000		\$0.00	\$696.66
Natural Resource Investments	20-39-NR	20000	NSCS	\$76,304.40	\$0.00
		20000	NSTA	\$23,064.29	\$0.00
NRCS TP 1st Task Orders	20-39-TP1	60500	SCRCP	\$0.00	\$723.19
		60500	FCRP	\$0.00	\$2,169.58
TP 3rd Task Order	20-39-TP3	60500	SCRCP	\$0.00	\$3,977.50
		60500	FCRP	\$0.00	\$11,932.50
Total Returned Funds for Lincoln County				\$99,368.69	\$20,364.16
Mason					
CREP TA and Cost Share	20-12-CE	30000	CRCS	\$0.00	\$10,088.56
Implementation	21-12-IM	95000		\$0.00	\$23.71
Natural Resource Investments	20-12-NR	20000	NSCS	\$0.00	\$10.00
		20000	NSTA	\$0.00	\$2,062.56
Shellfish	20-12-SH	20000	SHCS	\$0.00	\$69,089.96
		20000	SHTA	\$0.00	\$15,868.99
Total Returned Funds for Mason				\$0.00	\$97,143.78
North Yakima					
Natural Resource Investments	20-29-NR	20000	NSTA	\$1,272.59	\$4,110.02
		20000	NSCS	\$2,607.88	\$0.00
WSDA Soil Health / SFF	21-29-SO	78000		\$0.00	\$75.05
Total Returned Funds for North Yakima				\$3,880.47	\$4,185.07

Program	Grant #	Program Index	Project	Returned Funds	Closeout Amount
Okanogan					
Hazard Mitigation	21-19-HZ	64000	FEMD	\$0.00	\$544.34
Implementation	21-19-IM	51000		\$0.00	\$0.08
Irrigation Efficiencies Technical Assistance	18-19-IE	70000	IECS	\$0.00	\$2,456.03
Natural Resource Investments	20-19-NR	20000	NSTA	\$1.52	\$1.04
		20000	NSCS	\$3,308.43	\$243.90
TP 3rd Task Order	20-19-TP3	60500	SCTA	\$0.00	\$229.75
		60500	FCTA	\$0.00	\$689.27
TP 4th Task Order	20-19-TP4	60500	SEQP	\$0.00	\$301.27
		60500	FEQP	\$0.00	\$903.83
WSDA Soil Health / SFF	21-19-SO	78000		\$0.00	\$16.85
Total Returned Funds for Okanogan				\$3,309.95	\$5,386.36
Pacific					
CREP TA and Cost Share	20-14-CE	30000	CRCS	\$0.00	\$12,198.00
Implementation	21-14-IM	51000	ADDL	\$0.00	\$158.75
		51000		\$0.00	\$0.20
		95000		\$0.00	\$75.00
Livestock TA	20-14-LT	20000	SHLA	\$0.00	\$15,179.91
Natural Resource Investments	20-14-NR	20000	NSCS	\$0.00	\$27,250.00
		20000	NSTA	\$0.00	\$1,843.19
Shellfish	20-14-SH	20000	SHCS	\$64,232.31	\$33,931.54
		20000	SHTA	\$16,943.66	\$18,077.37
Total Returned Funds for Pacific				\$81,175.97	\$108,713.96
Palouse					
CREP TA and Cost Share	20-43-CE	30000	CRTA	\$0.00	\$9.98
Livestock TA	20-43-LT	20000	NSLA	\$0.00	\$26.31
Natural Resource Investments	20-43-NR	20000	NSCS	\$0.00	\$45,149.98
		20000	NSTA	\$0.00	\$57.99
WSDA Soil Health / SFF	21-43-SO	78000		\$0.00	\$23.18
Total Returned Funds for Palouse				\$0.00	\$45,267.44
Palouse-Rock Lake					
CREP TA and Cost Share	20-41-CE	30000	CRCS	\$0.00	\$15,325.38
Implementation	21-41-IM	51000	EMER	\$0.00	\$778.71
Livestock TA	20-41-LT	20000	NSLA	\$0.00	\$12,394.59
Natural Resource Investments	20-41-NR	20000	NSCS	\$0.00	\$53,195.23
Total Returned Funds for Palouse-Rock Lake				\$0.00	\$81,693.91
\$81,693.91	\$81,693.91				
Pend Oreille					
Natural Resource Investments	20-38-NR	20000	NSCS	\$34,099.57	\$0.00
		20000	NSTA	\$1,885.68	\$0.00
Total Returned Funds for Pend Oreille				\$35,985.25	\$0.00
Pierce					
CREP TA and Cost Share	20-10-CE	30000	CRTA	\$0.00	\$6,475.09
Envirothon	21-10-EV	53000	ENVI	\$0.00	\$1,731.57
Implementation	21-10-IM	21000		\$0.00	\$34.32
		54000		\$0.00	\$6.70
Livestock TA	20-10-LT	20000	SHLA	\$0.00	\$6.58
Natural Resource Investments	20-10-NR	20000	NSTA	\$0.00	\$555.75
Shellfish	20-10-SH	20000	SHCS	\$0.00	\$32,118.66
Total Returned Funds for Pierce				\$0.00	\$40,928.67
Pine Creek					
CREP TA and Cost Share	20-42-CE	30000	CRTA	\$0.00	\$5.62
Implementation	21-42-IM	51000		\$0.00	\$22.87
		54000		\$0.00	\$5,167.39
Natural Resource Investments	20-42-NR	20000	NSTA	\$0.00	\$1,084.77
		20000	NSCS	\$0.00	\$11,742.46
Total Returned Funds for Pine Creek				\$0.00	\$18,023.11

Program	Grant #	Program Index	Project	Returned Funds	Closeout Amount
Pomeroy					
CREP TA and Cost Share	20-47-CE	30000	CRCS	\$0.00	\$768.00
Implementation	21-47-IM	51000		\$0.00	\$61.21
		54000		\$0.00	\$6.13
Natural Resource Investments	20-47-NR	20000	NSTA	\$7,718.27	\$0.00
NRCS TP 1st Task Orders	20-47-TP1	60500	FCRP	\$0.00	\$861.00
		60500	SCRCP	\$0.00	\$287.00
TP 3rd Task Order	20-47-TP3	60500	FCRP	\$0.00	\$171.63
		60500	SCRCP	\$0.00	\$57.21
Total Returned Funds for Pomeroy				\$7,718.27	\$2,212.18
San Juan Islands					
CREP TA and Cost Share	20-03-CE	30000	CRTA	\$0.00	\$1.60
Livestock TA	20-03-LT	20000	SHLA	\$0.00	\$0.15
Natural Resource Investments	20-03-NR	20000	NSCS	\$12,500.00	\$15,616.03
		20000	NSTA	\$0.00	\$2,499.99
Shellfish	20-03-SH	20000	SHCS	\$0.00	\$3,885.27
Total Returned Funds for San Juan Islands				\$12,500.00	\$22,003.04
Skagit					
CREP TA and Cost Share	20-05-CE	30000	CRTA	\$0.00	\$499.96
		30000	CRCS	\$0.00	\$4,051.20
Implementation	21-05-IM	51000		\$0.00	\$17.82
		54000		\$0.00	\$3.59
Livestock TA	20-05-LT	20000	SHLA	\$0.00	\$447.09
Natural Resource Investments	20-05-NR	20000	NSCS	\$0.00	\$14,065.73
		20000	NSTA	\$6,000.00	\$1,717.26
Professional Engineering	21-05-PE	52000		\$0.00	\$15.36
Shellfish	20-05-SH	20000	SHCS	\$87,618.31	\$9,220.33
		20000	SHTA	\$18,935.29	\$23,798.77
TP 5th Task Order	20-05-TP5	60500	SEQP	\$0.00	\$0.01
Total Returned Funds for Skagit				\$112,553.60	\$53,837.12
Snohomish					
CREP TA and Cost Share	20-07-CE	30000	CRTA	\$0.00	\$8,848.42
		30000	CRCS	\$0.00	\$7,111.42
Implementation	21-07-IM	54000		\$0.00	\$15.91
		95000		\$0.00	\$5.00
Livestock TA	20-07-LT	20000	SHLA	\$0.00	\$18.11
Natural Resource Investments	20-07-NR	20000	NSCS	\$10,674.06	\$3,927.14
		20000	NSTA	\$12.07	\$3.76
NEP - National Estuary Program ECY	19-07-NE1	74000		\$0.00	\$31.82
	19-07-NE2	74000		\$0.00	\$46.43
Professional Engineering	21-07-PE	52000		\$0.00	\$16.49
Shellfish	20-07-SH	20000	SHCS	\$55,751.42	\$67,051.34
		20000	SHTA	\$22,914.49	\$10.47
TP 2nd Task Order	20-07-TP2	60500	SEQP	\$0.00	\$1,738.25
		60500	FEQP	\$0.00	\$5,214.75
TP 3rd Task Order	20-07-TP3	60500	FEQP	\$0.00	\$1,546.50
		60500	SEQP	\$0.00	\$515.50
Total Returned Funds for Snohomish				\$89,352.04	\$96,101.31
South Yakima					
Implementation	21-30-IM	51000		\$0.00	\$2,466.98
		54000		\$0.00	\$11,111.00
Livestock TA	20-30-LT	20000	NSLA	\$0.00	\$15.86
Natural Resource Investments	20-30-NR	20000	NSTA	\$22,901.52	\$7,822.35
		20000	NSCS	\$73,419.77	\$714.95
Total Returned Funds for South Yakima				\$96,321.29	\$22,131.14

Program	Grant #	Program Index	Project	Returned Funds	Closeout Amount
Spokane					
Implementation	21-40-IM	54000		\$0.00	\$0.11
Natural Resource Investments	20-40-NR	20000	NSCS	\$21,000.00	\$41,583.51
		20000	NSTA	\$7,712.09	\$0.00
NRCS TP 1st Task Orders	20-40-TP1	60500	SCRCP	\$0.00	\$577.50
		60500	FCRP	\$0.00	\$1,732.50
Total Returned Funds for Spokane				\$28,712.09	\$43,893.62
Stevens County					
Implementation	21-37-IM	95000		\$0.00	\$0.12
Natural Resource Investments	20-37-NR	20000	NSCS	\$4,960.55	\$6,358.98
		20000	NSTA	\$4,163.83	\$0.00
Total Returned Funds for Stevens County				\$9,124.38	\$6,359.10
Thurston					
CREP TA and Cost Share	20-13-CE	30000	CRTA	\$0.00	\$0.75
		30000	CRCS	\$0.00	\$3,474.50
Implementation	21-13-IM	51000		\$0.00	\$12.58
		54000		\$0.00	\$4.22
		95000		\$0.00	\$21.12
Livestock TA	20-13-LT	20000	SHLA	\$0.00	\$37.25
Natural Resource Investments	20-13-NR	20000	NSCS	\$0.00	\$23,456.18
Shellfish	20-13-SH	20000	SHCS	\$121,005.65	\$2,642.34
		20000	SHTA	\$9,301.86	\$216.18
Total Returned Funds for Thurston				\$130,307.51	\$29,865.12
Underwood					
Implementation	21-31-IM	54000		\$0.00	\$16.89
Irrigation Efficiencies Technical Assistance	20-31-IE	70000	IECS	\$0.00	\$326,952.68
Livestock TA	20-31-LT	20000	NSLA	\$0.00	\$0.58
Natural Resource Investments	20-31-NR	20000	NSCS	\$96,948.88	\$6,770.73
		20000	NSTA	\$13,026.59	\$0.47
NRCS TP 1st Task Orders	20-31-TP1	60500	SCRCP	\$0.00	\$1,181.25
		60500	FCRP	\$0.00	\$3,543.75
Total Returned Funds for Underwood				\$109,975.47	\$338,466.35
Wahkiakum					
Natural Resource Investments	20-16-NR	20000	NSTA	\$0.00	\$15,588.43
Total Returned Funds for Wahkiakum				\$0.00	\$15,588.43
Walla Walla County					
	K2025-VSP	40000		\$71,500.00	\$0.00
CREP TA and Cost Share	20-45-CE	30000	CRCS	\$0.00	\$66,134.32
Implementation	21-45-IM	10120		\$1,300.00	\$13.58
		51000		\$0.00	\$15.13
		54000		\$0.00	\$6.41
Irrigation Efficiencies Technical Assistance	20-45-IE	70000	IETA	\$12,400.00	\$8.51
Natural Resource Investments	20-45-NR	20000	NSCS	\$50,000.00	\$0.00
		20000	NSTA	\$10,159.51	\$0.00
TP 2nd Task Order	20-45-TP2	60500	FCRP	\$0.00	\$6,750.00
		60500	SCRCP	\$0.00	\$2,250.00
TP 3rd Task Order	20-45-TP3	60500	FCRP	\$0.00	\$3,327.19
		60500	SCRCP	\$0.00	\$1,109.06
TP 4th Task Order	20-45-TP4	60500	SCRCP	\$0.00	\$2,502.50
		60500	FCRP	\$0.00	\$7,507.50
TP 5th Task Order	20-45-TP5	60500	SCRCP	\$0.00	\$227.50
		60500	FCRP	\$0.00	\$682.50
Total Returned Funds for Walla Walla County				\$145,359.51	\$90,534.20
Program	Grant #	Program Index	Project	Returned Funds	Closeout Amount
Whatcom					
CREP TA and Cost Share	20-04-CE	30000	CRCS	\$0.00	\$52,598.14
		30000	CRTA	\$0.00	\$3,300.00
Hazard Mitigation	21-04-HZ	64000	FEMD	\$0.00	\$415.00

Implementation	21-04-IM	54000		\$0.00	\$3.92
Natural Resource Investments	20-04-NR	20000	NSTA	\$7,082.23	\$0.00
		20000	NSCS	\$2,202.27	\$0.00
Shellfish	20-04-SH	20000	SHTA	\$92,667.93	\$26.99
		20000	SHCS	\$172,931.46	\$5,406.18
TP 2nd Task Order	20-04-TP2	60500	FCTA	\$0.00	\$817.50
		60500	SCTA	\$0.00	\$272.50

Total Returned Funds for Whatcom				\$274,883.89	\$62,840.24
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Whidbey Island

Implementation	21-06-IM	51000		\$0.00	\$0.04
		95000		\$0.00	\$73.94
Shellfish	20-06-SH	20000	SHTA	\$6,562.50	\$1,818.02
		20000	SHCS	\$26,250.00	\$4,951.79

Total Returned Funds for Whidbey Island				\$32,812.50	\$6,843.79
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Whitman

Natural Resource Investments	20-44-NR	20000	NSCS	\$0.00	\$41.05
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Total Returned Funds for Whitman				\$0.00	\$41.05
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Total Returned Funds for All Districts

\$1,962,575.22

\$1,836,226.63

Returned Grant Funds by Program

Between Start Date: 7/1/2019 and End Date: 8/19/2021

CREP TA and Cost Share						
Asotin County	20-48-CE	30000	CRCS	\$	-	\$ 3,010.66
Clallam	20-01-CE	30000	CRTA	\$	-	\$ 244.12
		30000	CRCS	\$	-	\$ 10,441.79
Columbia	20-46-CE	30000	CRTA	\$	-	\$ 14,148.73
		30000	CRCS	\$	-	\$ 19,147.67
Cowlitz	20-17-CE	30000	CRTA	\$	-	\$ 6,660.32
Grays Harbor	20-11-CE	30000	CRCS	\$	-	\$ 1,046.00
Jefferson County	20-02-CE	30000	CRCS	\$	-	\$ 0.70
		30000	CRTA	\$	-	\$ 744.29
King	20-09-CE	30000	CRCS	\$	-	\$ 5,388.00
Kitsap	20-08-CE	30000	CRTA	\$	-	\$ 7.87
Kittitas County	20-28-CE	30000	CRTA	\$	-	\$ 1,284.00
Lewis	20-15-CE	30000	CRCS	\$	-	\$ 17,125.56
		30000	CRTA	\$	-	\$ 27.90
Mason	20-12-CE	30000	CRCS	\$	-	\$ 10,088.56
Pacific	20-14-CE	30000	CRCS	\$	-	\$ 12,198.00
Palouse	20-43-CE	30000	CRTA	\$	-	\$ 9.98
Palouse-Rock Lake	20-41-CE	30000	CRCS	\$	-	\$ 15,325.38
Pierce	20-10-CE	30000	CRTA	\$	-	\$ 6,475.09
Pine Creek	20-42-CE	30000	CRTA	\$	-	\$ 5.62
Pomeroy	20-47-CE	30000	CRCS	\$	-	\$ 768.00
San Juan Islands	20-03-CE	30000	CRTA	\$	-	\$ 1.60
Skagit	20-05-CE	30000	CRTA	\$	-	\$ 499.96
		30000	CRCS	\$	-	\$ 4,051.20
Snohomish	20-07-CE	30000	CRCS	\$	-	\$ 7,111.42
		30000	CRTA	\$	-	\$ 8,848.42
Thurston	20-13-CE	30000	CRCS	\$	-	\$ 3,474.50
		30000	CRTA	\$	-	\$ 0.75
Walla Walla County	20-45-CE	30000	CRCS	\$	-	\$ 66,134.32
Whatcom	20-04-CE	30000	CRTA	\$	-	\$ 3,300.00
		30000	CRCS	\$	-	\$ 52,598.14
Total Returned Funds for CREP TA and Cost Share				\$	-	\$ 270,168.55
Drought						
Jefferson County	19-02-DR	76000		\$	-	\$ 57.75
Total Returned Funds for Drought				\$	-	\$ 57.75
Envirothon						
Pierce	21-10-EV	53000	ENVI	\$	-	\$ 1,731.57
Total Returned Funds for Envirothon				\$	-	\$ 1,731.57
Hazard Mitigation						
Lincoln County	21-39-HZ	64000	FEMD	\$	-	\$ 560.87
Okanogan	21-19-HZ	64000	FEMD	\$	-	\$ 544.34
Whatcom	21-04-HZ	64000	FEMD	\$	-	\$ 415.01
Total Returned Funds for Hazard Mitigation				\$	-	\$ 1,520.22

Implementation						
Benton	21-32-IM	51000		\$	-	\$ 5.20
		54000		\$	-	\$ 4.90
Central Klickitat	21-34-IM	54000		\$	-	\$ 372.29
Clallam	21-01-IM	51000		\$	-	\$ 24.79
Columbia	21-46-IM	51000		\$	-	\$ 20.82
Eastern Klickitat	21-35-IM	54000		\$	-	\$ 1,204.74
Ferry	21-36-IM	51000		\$	-	\$ 0.21
		51000	EMER	\$	-	\$ 0.45
Foster Creek	21-21-IM	51000	EMER	\$	-	\$ 1,032.66
		51000		\$	-	\$ 1,016.21
		54000		\$	-	\$ 663.25
Franklin	21-33-IM	51000		\$	-	\$ 53.38
		54000		\$	-	\$ 7.08
Grays Harbor	21-11-IM	51000		\$	-	\$ 58.27
		54000		\$	-	\$ 11.06
Kitsap	21-08-IM	54000		\$	-	\$ 16.46
		95000		\$	-	\$ 18.32
Kittitas County	21-28-IM	51000		\$	-	\$ 3.48
		54000		\$	-	\$ 147.36
Lewis	21-15-IM	51000		\$	-	\$ 16.03
		95000		\$	-	\$ 36.05
Lincoln County	21-39-IM	51000		\$	-	\$ 303.86
		54000		\$	-	\$ 696.66
Mason	21-12-IM	95000		\$	-	\$ 23.71
Okanogan	21-19-IM	51000		\$	-	\$ 0.08
Pacific	21-14-IM	51000		\$	-	\$ 0.20
		51000	ADDL	\$	-	\$ 158.75
		95000		\$	-	\$ 75.00
Palouse-Rock Lake	21-41-IM	51000	EMER	\$	-	\$ 778.71
Pierce	21-10-IM	21000		\$	-	\$ 34.32
		54000		\$	-	\$ 6.70
Pine Creek	21-42-IM	51000		\$	-	\$ 22.87
		54000		\$	-	\$ 5,167.39
Pomeroy	21-47-IM	51000		\$	-	\$ 61.21
		54000		\$	-	\$ 6.13
Skagit	21-05-IM	51000		\$	-	\$ 17.82
		54000		\$	-	\$ 3.59
Snohomish	21-07-IM	54000		\$	-	\$ 15.91
		95000		\$	-	\$ 5.00
South Yakima	21-30-IM	51000		\$	-	\$ 2,466.98
		54000		\$	-	\$ 11,111.00
Spokane	21-40-IM	54000		\$	-	\$ 0.11
Stevens County	21-37-IM	95000		\$	-	\$ 0.12
Thurston	21-13-IM	51000		\$	-	\$ 12.58
		54000		\$	-	\$ 4.22
		95000		\$	-	\$ 21.12
Underwood	21-31-IM	54000		\$	-	\$ 16.89
Walla Walla County	21-45-IM	10120		\$	1,300.00	\$ 13.58
		51000		\$	-	\$ 15.13
		54000		\$	-	\$ 6.41
Whatcom	21-04-IM	54000		\$	-	\$ 3.92
Whidbey Island	21-06-IM	51000		\$	-	\$ 0.04
		95000		\$	-	\$ 73.94
Total Returned Funds for Implementation				\$	1,300.00	\$ 25,836.96

Irrigation Efficiencies Technical

Cascadia	20-20-IE	70000	IETA	\$	-	\$	324.17
Clallam	20-01-IE	70000	IETA	\$	-	\$	168,757.27
		70000	IECS	\$	-	\$	48,815.47
Columbia	20-46-IE	70000	IETA	\$	-	\$	6,413.29
Kittitas County	20-28-IE	70000	IETA	\$	-	\$	5.68
Okanogan	18-19-IE	70000	IECS	\$	-	\$	2,456.03
Underwood	20-31-IE	70000	IECS	\$	-	\$	326,952.68
Walla Walla County	20-45-IE	70000	IETA	\$	12,400.00	\$	8.51
Total Returned Funds for Irrigation Efficiencies				\$	12,400.00	\$	553,733.10

Livestock TA

Asotin County	20-48-LT	20000	NSLA	\$	-	\$	0.82
Clark	20-18-LT	20000	NSLA	\$	-	\$	6.59
Franklin	20-33-LT	20000	NSLA	\$	-	\$	415.31
Jefferson County	20-02-LT	20000	SHLA	\$	-	\$	20,743.38
King	20-09-LT	20000	SHLA	\$	-	\$	3,359.37
Kitsap	20-08-LT	20000	SHLA	\$	-	\$	38.03
Pacific	20-14-LT	20000	SHLA	\$	-	\$	15,179.91
Palouse	20-43-LT	20000	NSLA	\$	-	\$	26.31
Palouse-Rock Lake	20-41-LT	20000	NSLA	\$	-	\$	12,394.59
Pierce	20-10-LT	20000	SHLA	\$	-	\$	6.58
San Juan Islands	20-03-LT	20000	SHLA	\$	-	\$	0.15
Skagit	20-05-LT	20000	SHLA	\$	-	\$	447.09
Snohomish	20-07-LT	20000	SHLA	\$	-	\$	18.11
South Yakima	20-30-LT	20000	NSLA	\$	-	\$	15.86
Thurston	20-13-LT	20000	SHLA	\$	-	\$	37.25
Underwood	20-31-LT	20000	NSLA	\$	-	\$	0.58
Total Returned Funds for Livestock TA				\$	-	\$	52,689.93

Natural Resource Investments

Adams	20-27-NR	20000	NSTA	\$	5,000.00	\$	3,544.01
		20000	NSCS	\$	20,000.00	\$	17,344.50
Asotin County	20-48-NR	20000	NSTA	\$	-	\$	27,216.78
		20000	NSCS	\$	-	\$	15,248.76
Benton	20-32-NR	20000	NSCS	\$	48,206.41	\$	1,793.59
		20000	NSTA	\$	4,177.90	\$	-
Cascadia	20-20-NR	20000	NSTA	\$	-	\$	836.46
		20000	NSCS	\$	1,981.12	\$	13,725.37
Clallam	20-01-NR	20000	NSTA	\$	2,767.85	\$	-
		20000	NSCS	\$	3,975.52	\$	-
Clark	20-18-NR	20000	NSTA	\$	-	\$	66.99
Columbia	20-46-NR	20000	NSTA	\$	-	\$	5,996.25
		20000	NSCS	\$	-	\$	11,778.37
Cowlitz	20-17-NR	20000	NSTA	\$	-	\$	13,144.31
		20000	NSCS	\$	-	\$	20,289.87
Ferry	20-36-NR	20000	NSTA	\$	7,601.05	\$	-
		20000	NSCS	\$	32,425.00	\$	-
Franklin	20-33-NR	20000	NSTA	\$	1,038.22	\$	3.04
		20000	NSCS	\$	18,750.00	\$	1,360.00
Grant County	20-49-NR	20000	NSTA	\$	2,569.86	\$	-
		20000	NSCS	\$	33,000.00	\$	-
Grays Harbor	20-11-NR	20000	NSCS	\$	40,000.00	\$	8,188.68
		20000	NSTA	\$	7,222.77	\$	53.01
Jefferson County	20-02-NR	20000	NSTA	\$	9,453.64	\$	2.29
		20000	NSCS	\$	50,155.75	\$	10,279.62
King	20-09-NR	20000	NSCS	\$	30,000.00	\$	-
		20000	NSTA	\$	9,672.68	\$	-
Kitsap	20-08-NR	20000	NSTA	\$	-	\$	8.23
		20000	NSCS	\$	-	\$	903.69
Kittitas County	20-28-NR	20000	NSTA	\$	33,505.07	\$	-
		20000	NSCS	\$	50,000.00	\$	-
Lewis	20-15-NR	20000	NSTA	\$	35,018.91	\$	743.67
		20000	NSCS	\$	122,086.21	\$	4,611.68
Lincoln County	20-39-NR	20000	NSCS	\$	76,304.40	\$	-
		20000	NSTA	\$	23,064.29	\$	-
Mason	20-12-NR	20000	NSCS	\$	-	\$	10.00
		20000	NSTA	\$	-	\$	2,062.56
North Yakima	20-29-NR	20000	NSTA	\$	1,272.59	\$	4,110.02
		20000	NSCS	\$	2,607.88	\$	-
Okanogan	20-19-NR	20000	NSCS	\$	3,308.43	\$	243.90
Okanogan	20-19-NR	20000	NSTA	\$	1.52	\$	1.04
Pacific	20-14-NR	20000	NSCS	\$	-	\$	27,250.00
		20000	NSTA	\$	-	\$	1,843.19
Palouse	20-43-NR	20000	NSCS	\$	-	\$	45,149.98
		20000	NSTA	\$	-	\$	57.99
Palouse-Rock Lake	20-41-NR	20000	NSCS	\$	-	\$	53,195.23
Pend Oreille	20-38-NR	20000	NSCS	\$	34,099.57	\$	-
		20000	NSTA	\$	1,885.68	\$	-
Pierce	20-10-NR	20000	NSTA	\$	-	\$	555.75
Pine Creek	20-42-NR	20000	NSTA	\$	-	\$	1,084.77
		20000	NSCS	\$	-	\$	11,742.46
Pomeroy	20-47-NR	20000	NSTA	\$	7,718.27	\$	-
San Juan Islands	20-03-NR	20000	NSCS	\$	12,500.00	\$	15,616.03
		20000	NSTA	\$	-	\$	2,499.99
Skagit	20-05-NR	20000	NSCS	\$	-	\$	14,065.73
		20000	NSTA	\$	6,000.00	\$	1,717.26
Snohomish	20-07-NR	20000	NSTA	\$	12.07	\$	3.76
		20000	NSCS	\$	10,674.06	\$	3,927.14
South Yakima	20-30-NR	20000	NSTA	\$	22,901.52	\$	7,822.35
		20000	NSCS	\$	73,419.77	\$	714.95
Spokane	20-40-NR	20000	NSTA	\$	7,712.09	\$	-
		20000	NSCS	\$	21,000.00	\$	41,583.51
Stevens County	20-37-NR	20000	NSTA	\$	4,163.83	\$	-
		20000	NSCS	\$	4,960.55	\$	6,358.98
Thurston	20-13-NR	20000	NSCS	\$	-	\$	23,456.18
Underwood	20-31-NR	20000	NSTA	\$	13,026.59	\$	0.47
		20000	NSCS	\$	96,948.88	\$	6,770.73
Wahkiakum	20-16-NR	20000	NSTA	\$	-	\$	15,588.43
Walla Walla County	20-45-NR	20000	NSCS	\$	50,000.00	\$	-
		20000	NSTA	\$	10,159.51	\$	-
Whatcom	20-04-NR	20000	NSTA	\$	7,082.23	\$	-
		20000	NSCS	\$	2,202.27	\$	-
Whitman	20-44-NR	20000	NSCS	\$	-	\$	41.05
Total Returned Funds for Natural Resource Investments				\$	1,061,633.96	\$	444,612.62

NEP - National Estuary Program ECY						
Snohomish	19-07-NE1	74000		\$	-	\$ 31.82
Snohomish	19-07-NE2	74000		\$	-	\$ 46.43
Total Returned Funds for NEP - National Estuary				\$	-	\$ 78.25
NRCS TSP 1st Task Orders						
Cascadia	20-20-TP1	60500	FCTA	\$	-	\$ 11,100.00
		60500	SCTA	\$	-	\$ 3,700.00
Foster Creek	20-21-TP1	60500	FCSP	\$	176.25	-
		60500	SCSP	\$	58.75	\$ -
Grays Harbor	20-11-TP1	60500	SCTA	\$	-	\$ 3,828.58
		60500	FCTA	\$	-	\$ 11,485.76
King	20-09-TP1	60500	FCTA	\$	-	\$ 5,850.00
		60500	SCTA	\$	-	\$ 1,950.00
Lincoln County	20-39-TP1	60500	SCRCP	\$	-	\$ 723.19
		60500	FCRP	\$	-	\$ 2,169.58
Pomeroy	20-47-TP1	60500	SCRCP	\$	-	\$ 287.00
		60500	FCRP	\$	-	\$ 861.00
Spokane	20-40-TP1	60500	SCRCP	\$	-	\$ 577.50
		60500	FCRP	\$	-	\$ 1,732.50
Underwood	20-31-TP1	60500	SCRCP	\$	-	\$ 1,181.25
		60500	FCRP	\$	-	\$ 3,543.75
Total Returned Funds for NRCS TSP 1st Task Orders				\$	235.00	\$ 48,990.11
Professional Engineering						
Franklin	21-33-PE	52000		\$	-	\$ 36,637.54
Grays Harbor	21-11-PE	52000		\$	-	\$ 5,060.90
Kittitas County	21-28-PE	52000		\$	-	\$ 6.69
Skagit	21-05-PE	52000		\$	-	\$ 15.36
Snohomish	21-07-PE	52000		\$	-	\$ 16.49
Total Returned Funds for Professional Engineering				\$	-	\$ 41,736.98
Shellfish						
Clallam	20-01-SH	20000	SHTA	\$	8,969.51	\$ -
		20000	SHCS	\$	41,781.72	\$ -
Grays Harbor	20-11-SH	20000	SHCS	\$	-	\$ 4,757.02
Jefferson County	20-02-SH	20000	SHTA	\$	1,008.68	\$ -
		20000	SHCS	\$	21,736.05	\$ -
King	20-09-SH	20000	SHCS	\$	34,533.75	\$ -
		20000	SHTA	\$	6,962.35	\$ -
Kitsap	20-08-SH	20000	SHCS	\$	7.74	\$ 1,644.94
		20000	SHTA	\$	30.58	\$ 42.01
Mason	20-12-SH	20000	SHTA	\$	-	\$ 15,868.99
		20000	SHCS	\$	-	\$ 69,089.96
Pacific	20-14-SH	20000	SHTA	\$	16,943.66	\$ 18,077.37
		20000	SHCS	\$	64,232.31	\$ 33,931.54
Pierce	20-10-SH	20000	SHCS	\$	-	\$ 32,118.66
San Juan Islands	20-03-SH	20000	SHCS	\$	-	\$ 3,885.27
Skagit	20-05-SH	20000	SHCS	\$	87,618.31	\$ 9,220.33
		20000	SHTA	\$	18,935.29	\$ 23,798.77
Snohomish	20-07-SH	20000	SHCS	\$	55,751.42	\$ 67,051.34
		20000	SHTA	\$	22,914.49	\$ 10.47
Thurston	20-13-SH	20000	SHCS	\$	121,005.65	\$ 2,642.34
		20000	SHTA	\$	9,301.86	\$ 216.18
Whatcom	20-04-SH	20000	SHTA	\$	92,667.93	\$ 26.99
		20000	SHCS	\$	172,931.46	\$ 5,406.18
Whidbey Island	20-06-SH	20000	SHTA	\$	6,562.50	\$ 1,818.02
		20000	SHCS	\$	26,250.00	\$ 4,951.79
Total Returned Funds for Shellfish				\$	810,145.26	\$ 294,558.17

Soil Health						
Grant County	18-49-TS	62000	FSOL	\$		7,868.93
		62000	SSOL	\$		5,245.95
Total Returned Funds for Soil Health				\$	-	\$ 13,114.88
TSP 2nd Task Order						
Cascadia	20-20-TP2	20000	CREQ	\$	1,340.25	\$ -
		60500	FEQP	\$	4,020.75	\$ -
Columbia	20-46-TP2	60500	SCRP	\$		441.00
		60500	FCRP	\$		1,323.00
Foster Creek	20-21-TP2	60500	FEQP	\$		765.00
		60500	SEQP	\$		255.00
Grant County	20-49-TP2	60500	FCRP	\$		5,940.00
		60500	SCRP	\$		1,980.00
Snohomish	20-07-TP2	60500	FEQP	\$		5,214.75
		60500	SEQP	\$		1,738.25
Walla Walla County	20-45-TP2	60500	FCRP	\$		6,750.00
		60500	SCRP	\$		2,250.00
Whatcom	20-04-TP2	60500	SCTA	\$		272.50
		60500	FCTA	\$		817.50
Total Returned Funds for TSP 2nd Task Order				\$	5,361.00	\$ 27,747.00
TSP 3rd Task Order						
Cascadia	20-20-TP3	20000	CREQ	\$		897.50
		60500	FCTA	\$		900.00
		60500	FCSP	\$		1,792.50
Columbia	20-46-TP3	60500	FCRP	\$		343.01
		60500	SCRP	\$		114.33
Grant County	20-49-TP3	60500	FCRP	\$		3,105.00
		60500	SCRP	\$		1,035.00
Lincoln County	20-39-TP3	60500	FCRP	\$		11,932.50
		60500	SCRP	\$		3,977.50
Okanogan	20-19-TP3	60500	FCTA	\$		689.27
		60500	SCTA	\$		229.75
Pomeroy	20-47-TP3	60500	FCRP	\$		171.63
		60500	SCRP	\$		57.21
Snohomish	20-07-TP3	60500	SEQP	\$		515.50
		60500	FEQP	\$		1,546.50
Walla Walla County	20-45-TP3	60500	FCRP	\$		3,327.19
		60500	SCRP	\$		1,109.06
Total Returned Funds for TSP 3rd Task Order				\$	-	\$ 31,743.45
TSP 4th Task Order						
Columbia	20-46-TP4	60500	FCRP	\$		247.87
		60500	SCRP	\$		82.63
Foster Creek	20-21-TP4	60500	FEQP	\$		441.00
		60500	SEQP	\$		147.00
Franklin	20-33-TP4	60500	SCRP	\$		91.57
		60500	FCRP	\$		274.72
Okanogan	20-19-TP4	60500	FEQP	\$		903.83
		60500	SEQP	\$		301.27
Walla Walla County	20-45-TP4	60500	SCRP	\$		2,502.50
		60500	FCRP	\$		7,507.50
Total Returned Funds for TSP 4th Task Order				\$	-	\$ 12,499.89
TSP 5th Task Order						
Franklin	20-33-TP5	60500	FCRP	\$		372.00
		60500	SCRP	\$		124.00
Skagit	20-05-TP5	60500	SEQP	\$		0.01
Walla Walla County	20-45-TP5	60500	FCRP	\$		682.50
		60500	SCRP	\$		227.50
Total Returned Funds for TSP 5th Task Order				\$	-	\$ 1,406.01
TSP 6th Task Order						
Cascadia	20-20-TP6	60500	FCTA	\$		2,481.75
		60500	SCTA	\$		827.25
Total Returned Funds for TSP 6th Task Order				\$	-	\$ 3,309.00
TSP 8th Task Order						
Foster Creek	20-21-TP8	60500	FEQP	\$		606.00
		60500	SEQP	\$		202.00
Total Returned Funds for TSP 8th Task Order				\$	-	\$ 808.00

WSDA Soil Health / SFF

Asotin County	21-48-SO	78000		\$	166.25
Benton	21-32-SO	78000		\$	3,463.31
Central Klickitat	21-34-SO	78000		\$	10.59
Columbia	21-46-SO	78000		\$	4,005.50
Eastern Klickitat	21-35-SO	78000		\$	32.19
Franklin	21-33-SO	78000		\$	2,091.27
North Yakima	21-29-SO	78000		\$	75.05
Okanogan	21-19-SO	78000		\$	16.85
Palouse	21-43-SO	78000		\$	23.18
Total Returned Funds for WSDA Soil Health				\$	-
Total Returned Funds for All Programs				\$	1,962,575.22
				\$	1,836,226.63



Washington State Conservation Commission

September 16, 2021

TO: Conservation Commission Members
Carol Smith, SCC Executive Director

FROM: Shana Joy, District Operations & Regional Manager Coordinator

SUBJECT: District Operations and Regional Manager Report

Action Item	<input type="checkbox"/>
Informational Item	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Report Summary:

Regional Managers offer this report of recent activities and support provided to conservation districts.

Ongoing Service Areas to Conservation Districts

- Partnering and Relationships Assistance
- Conservation Accountability & Performance Program (CAPP) Assistance
- **New Supervisor and Staff Orientations and Professional Development**
- Task Order Development
- Tracking Grant Spending and Vouchering
- Open Government Training
- **Cultural Resources**
- Project Development & CPDS
- **Natural Resource Investments & Shellfish Programs**
- Implementation Monitoring
- Long Range and Annual Planning Assistance
- Cross-pollination of Information, Templates, and Examples
- Records Retention and PRA
- CD Audits & Annual Financial Reporting
- Chehalis Basin
- **Commission Meeting Planning**
- District Digest Publication
- Human Resources (law/rule updates, hiring, performance evaluations, compensation, healthcare, issues)
- OPMA & Executive Sessions

Conservation District Service, Recent Topics

- Livestock Technical Assistance Grants
- COVID 19 Operations
- Finance Tracking & Management
- **Hazard Mitigation Grant**

- National Estuary Program Grant Close-out
- **Fiscal Year/Biennium End**
- Public Records Requests
- Supervisor Cost Share
- Property Purchase
- **WACD Annual Meeting Planning**
- **SCC & District Policy Development**
- RCPP
- Bidding & Contracting
- **Fire Recovery**
- Equipment Rental
- **Inter-local Agreements & Staff Sharing**
- Rates & Charges
- CD Bonding
- Heritage Gardens Program
- Building Better Series

Issues Resolution in Progress

- Personnel management: issues, turn-over, capacity gaps, transitions
- Inter-district relationships and partnering
- Grant vouchering requirements
- District governance

Partnerships & Partnering Assistance

Most recently, the RM team has assisted with partnering or participated in partner and relationship building ongoing efforts with: individual conservation districts, WADE, Center for Technical Development, WACD, DNR, NRCS, Ecology, NASCA, WDFW, NACD, Washington Association of Land Trusts, State Auditor's Office, RCO, Department of Veterans Affairs, WA Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network, Washington Conservation Society, and Arid Lands Initiative. Shana Joy is representing the Commission in a new collective effort to provide additional resources, mentorship, and training opportunities for managers within the conservation district family together with CTD, WADE, and WACD staff. The new [**Building Better – Leadership and Management Learning Community**](#) series is a monthly session offered on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 1:00 p.m.

Wildfire Recovery

Mike Baden, Allisa Carlson, and Courtney Woods are administering the wildfire recovery grant program by regularly reviewing applications for technical assistance and cost-share project funding needs. As of September 1st, \$917,533 funds have been awarded to conservation districts. The SCC also provided a letter of sponsorship for the Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP) to NRCS to support assessment work to determine if eligible projects exist in the areas burned by this summer's wildfires.

Hazard Mitigation Grant Implementation

Mike Baden is leading implementation of a Hazard Mitigation Grant that the SCC is receiving from the Department of Emergency Management. He has been working with the National Fire Protection Association to schedule the final 3 Home Ignition Zone Assessment trainings for the fall. These will occur in late October and early November. He has also been working with the Whatcom, Benton, and Spokane CDs as they will be coordinating outreach and registration for the trainings. Initial work has started with the Lincoln County CD on organizing the final “Outreach Strategies for Community Wildfire Preparedness and Recovery” training. This training is currently planned to occur in early February 2022.

16 districts were written into the grant proposal to conduct a target of 10 home ignition zone assessments if they attended one of the Home Ignition Zone assessment trainings. This work was intended as a practical follow-up to practice what they were taught during the training. Funding has also been provided to 11 of those districts that attended one of the spring trainings. 5 more districts were included in the grant that would be able to conduct this work after successfully completing one of the fall Home Ignition Zone trainings.

COVID 19 Response

The Regional Manager team continues to provide timely resources, information, FAQs, and sometimes just moral support to conservation districts as we all navigate the ongoing COVID 19 pandemic. The team continues to monitor and review new information and guidance as it is released from the Governor’s Office, CDC, and other sources.

WDFW Shrubsteppe Habitat Budget Proviso

Allisa Carlson and Shana Joy are participating on a steering committee with WDFW and DNR staff to implement a shrubsteppe habitat wildfire recovery and resiliency budget proviso that was appropriated to WDFW in this new biennium. The steering committee conducted a kick-off meeting with invited partners and stakeholders on August 31st to provide information about the proviso, planned near term actions to occur in fall of 2021, and opportunities for engagement including crafting a collaborate strategy for long term wildfire resiliency in the shrub steppe. The Foster Creek and Lincoln County Conservation Districts have been participating in the ongoing discussions as the near term actions work will focus primarily in the footprints of the Pearl Hill and Whitney Fires of 2020. Allisa is also plugging into the work of two of the near term action technical workgroups identified to provide recommendations to the steering committee on wildlife friendly fencing and hay for deferred grazing.

Chehalis Basin

Josh Giuntoli represents the Executive Director of the Commission as an ex-officio member of the Chehalis Basin Board (CBB). Since the last report, the Office of Chehalis Basin (OCB) approved a budget of \$70m for aquatic and flood work in the Chehalis Basin. Budget approval was initially delayed as certain details on the flood side of funding were reconciled between interested parties. Mostly it was how funding was being obligated for elements of the flood retention facility that were seen as going beyond the SEPA and NEPA process. At the August 16 board meeting, 7 of 7 voting members approved the funding plan. As the proposed flood retention facility progresses through the SEPA and NEPA process, the CBB approved a structure to begin evaluating alternatives to the proposed project. This structure would include creating a newly chartered Local

Actions Non-Dam (LAND) Alternative Advisory Group which would serve in an advisory capacity on technical, policy, and/or implementation feasibility issues while a third-party consultant team develops options for a non-dam alternative.

Chehalis Basin CDs continue to engage in work associated with the Early Action Reaches within the Aquatic Species Restoration Program (ASRP) while continuing to provide valuable on-the-ground work in the Basin with private landowners and partners. Construction on projects in this current in-stream work window are well underway. An example is that Lewis CD is seeing great progress with a project on private land in the upper Chehalis Basin. In partnership with Weyerhaeuser Company, Lewis CD sponsored this river restoration project to open seven miles of previously isolated stream habitat for salmon and steelhead. Construction to remove a fish passage barrier on the West Fork Chehalis River is well underway and will be completed soon.

Josh continues to convene a monthly meeting of Chehalis Basin CDs and partners (lead entity, Office of Chehalis Basin, WDFW, and others) to provide direct updates and collaboration with each other on work and activity in the Basin.



WSCC Center for Technical Development (CTD) September 2021 Commission Meeting

CTD Work Accomplishments (July 2021 forward)

For previous accomplishments and task completion, please review previous commission packet updates.

Explore more @ www.wactd.org

Certification

CTD Planner Certifications: The CTD Planner Certification Program saw some exciting changes in the application process over the past year, based on feedback from applicants and the review team. CTD was able to streamline the application process by moving to Smartsheet, allowing for a cleaner submission process for applicants and a more efficient review process for the review team. With a handful of planners now successfully certified, the CTD leadership team is currently exploring ways to increase participation. The CTD is developing a strategic plan including outreach efforts such as newsletter articles, informational webinars, and direct outreach to district managers to help identify and overcome barriers to completing certification.

Plan Templates: The CTD has enrolled assistance with **creation of a Statewide Farm Planning template and helpful links to planning resources/tools**. The template provides consistency in statewide planning as well as template availability to those Districts without such resources on hand.

Planner Resources: With ongoing changes and new hybrid (virtual and in-person) work environments, the CTD continues to curate and share virtual support tools and training opportunities on our webpage and via GovDelivery. Over the past year, CTD has continually updated our planner resources on the CTD webpage, providing links to new opportunities and content for more effective remote working. **The CTD Training Library helps district staff easily locate past webinars and training opportunities by topic.**

Connecting Community: **The CTD continues to build and host multiple Networking Forums for different planning disciplines and expertise.** These Networking Forums have garnered good participation and interest from staff members. Four Networking Forums are already underway: Cover Crop, Farm, Dairy, and Riparian. These Forums are held quarterly and provide a much-needed space for planners and technical staff to share successes and challenges, ask questions, and connect district staff year-round. CTD actively solicits ideas for new Forums; as a result of this feedback, a new “Smartsheet Networking Forum” will kick in November. Additionally, “Building Better: Leadership and Management Learning Community”, is a new series hosted by the CTD in collaboration with WSCC, WADE, and WACD that is targeted towards existing and developing District managers/leaders of all levels. The monthly learning and sharing network, hosted the second Wednesday of every month, held its first meeting in August 2021. All Networking Forum information is available on the CTD website and promoted through the monthly newsletter and special email announcements.

NRCS Planner Designations: FY21 saw some changes to the NRCS nomenclature and updated course requirements for planners. The **CTD continues to coordinate with NRCS to help District staff through the NRCS Planner Designation process, updating CTD materials to reflect changes and communicating to District staff** through webinars and email announcements. CTD's coordination with NRCS is also part of the new Washington Conservation Planning Partnership plan, and the CTD is on-point to help District staff meet NRCS's goal to certify as many planners as is applicable.

Training

NRCS Collaboration: The CTD continues to work with NRCS on coordination of training events to ensure better organization and placement of CD staff in NRCS trainings. The CTD and NRCS proposed and supported a 5-year cooperative agreement to share the cost of a **highly needed fulltime Training Coordinator position to exponentially expand the CTD's reach and impact to help District staff through training, certification, and support processes**. However, while NRCS approved the agreement, funding has not yet been allocated by NRCS. Therefore, the CTD pro-actively sought temporary funding for this vital position and applied for an NACD grant in June 2021. That effort was successful, and that **NACD grant will now provide short-term support for the Training Coordinator for one year while long-term funds are pursued**. An introductory meeting was held in August with NRCS to help identify cooperative tasks and coordinate workflow between agencies.

National Conservation Planning Partnership (NCPP): The **CTD participates in regular (bi-monthly) web-meetings of the National Conservation Planning Partnership (NCPP)** to discuss national training and certification opportunity for Districts. This has been a great forum for the CTD to both give and receive feedback and ideas for advancing these opportunities nationally and in Washington State. The CTD also participated with Washington NRCS and other state partners to work on the Washington State Conservation Action Plan to improve training, certification, and communications.

Training Needs Inventory (TNI): **The CTD released its annual TNI in close coordination with NRCS in June 2021**, with the goal of informing NRCS of District training needs in the coming year. The TNI is tailored to identify those NRCS training events CD staff need and engage CD staff in the CTD and NRCS certification processes. This information also helps inform and guide CTD-sponsored trainings and Task Order requests. TNI responses were communicated to NRCS in mid-July and the CTD participated in the NRCS EDC meeting to voice support for highly requested trainings in August. When the full FY22 NRCS training list is released, the CTD will begin coordinating District staff into those trainings.

NRCS Training Events: Due to the on-going restrictions associated with COVID-19, training was primarily modified to virtual formats. The CTD keeps in regular contact with NRCS and posts new information on the CTD website regularly. Additionally, with the long-term uncertainty associated with holding in-person training, the **CTD continues to advocate with NRCS to consider/create more web-based training events into the future**.

The CTD worked with NRCS to bring much-needed courses to District staff including:

- **Soil Health & Sustainability for Field Staff** was held in a hybrid format in August 2021. It is a required course for all Level III (Certified) planners. CTD worked secure District staff seats in this foundational course, and partnered with NRCS to deliver it, providing the virtual platform and

moderation for instructors. Regional field sessions were coordinated in a joint effort with NRCS and CTD for both eastside and westside participants.

- **Advanced Forest Health and Monarch Field Day** were both small regional field day offerings that CTD worked directly with NRCS instructors to identify appropriate District staff to attend.

Additional trainings that CTD is working to coordinate CD staff seats in FY22 include:

- **Nutrient Management Planning (NMP) – November 2021**
- **Comprehensive Nutrient Management Planning (CNMP) – February 2022**
- **CREP Training – October 2021**
- **Working Effectively with American Indians – November 2021**
- **Working Effectively with Organic Producers – November 2021**
- **Conservation Planning, Part 2**, which is a critical training for all planners, is under a process to create and offer this foundational course in a hybrid format that can be accessed by staff at any time. This will hopefully onboard new planners quicker, and educate interns, supervisors and others as needed.

The CTD continues to strengthen their training partnership with NRCS and hopes that these web-based modular trainings will also serve as a pilot for ongoing collaboration with fully online and hybrid web-classroom training opportunities.

Other Training Events: The CTD **continues to curate and host monthly webinars** focused on timely topics. The webinars have been well-received and are advertised on the CTD website, newsletter, and through special email announcements. The CTD co-hosts additional outside virtual training opportunities through NRCS and others, as appropriate. Additionally, we continue to send out guidance on virtual training opportunities to help staff stay focused and relevant in a remote/hybrid working environment. The CTD is always soliciting input and ideas for trainings through the newsletter and website.

With the increase in virtual presentations including webinars, training events, and meetings, the **CTD has curated and created content to support virtual presenters**. This includes a tips handout, presenter orientation events/videos, and access to presentation training events. It is our goal to improve the quality of presentations to increase audience enjoyment and learning. The CTD sent out an announcement to all Districts informing them of the virtual resources available and offering additional support for planning, creating, and hosting virtual events.

All the recorded webinars and trainings hosted by the CTD are now housed on the CTD website in the **CTD Training Library**. The Library is sorted by topic and includes a brief description, the recorded session, and links to any accompanying training materials. Additional content is added to the Library frequently.

Training Scholarships: Training scholarships are a priority for CTD and are once again included in our FY22 budget. A scholarships request form will be released in October to support staff through FY22.

New Employee Resources: The new employee resource page on the CTD website is continuously being updated with new webinars and information, including a new employee check list for both individuals and Districts to use. The goal is to have **all new employee resources in one place** so they can get going

with training, training plans, certification, and orientation. The new page includes a portal to the CTD database. The CTD is currently developing a strategic plan to further refine our outreach and resources for new employees.

Communication and Outreach

Website: The CTD website (www.wactd.org) continues to serve as a source of information to CD staff and is updated regularly. The CTD has worked to keep the website updated, improving aesthetics, clarity, and navigation of the site while continually updating content and ensuring relevance of the site. New changes are also announced in the CTD newsletter.

Outreach: CTD continues to work on a cohesive marketing plan to increase recognition and impact for CD staff as well as better engage both internal and external partners. Our goal is to **increase awareness of the CTD as a central provision of training and expertise** and increase the collaboration with partners on events and resources. A recent communications survey helped inform improvements for CTD content and guide the marketing plan in development. Moving forward, a dedicated Partnership Engagement Plan will enable strategic communications and engagement with partners and others.

Newsletter: The CTD monthly GovDelivery newsletter continues to gain new subscribers (currently we have **more than 450 subscribers**) and is also located on the CTD website for those not on GovDelivery. In addition to the monthly newsletter, the CTD is using the GovDelivery platform as a way to get immediate, time-sensitive news and information out to staff.

Special Projects: The CTD is working with the WSCC on developing a “Conservation Catalog” that will highlight a number of best management practices (BMP’s) across a landscape. The catalog is meant to be given to new homeowners as a way to increase BMP adoption and working with their local Conservation District. The goal is to have the catalog complete by spring 2022.

The CTD is working with the VSP group to provide training support and review of technical documents upon request. The goal is to provide quality assurance, technical support, and better connect VSP staff to CTD certification programs.

Technical Expertise and Science Program

Expertise: Experts are identified as needed for engagement in programs, policy and training around the state (examples include: Ecology Voluntary Clean Water Guidance for Agriculture Advisory Group, DOE Drinking Water Standard review, Dairy Nutrient Advisory Committee, WDFW riparian habitat guidance, and more). The CTD database continues to prove effective in identifying and nominating expertise as appropriate.

Science: The CTD supports work around the State on Discovery Farms projects to advance the application of consistent science and monitoring efforts. There has been statewide buy-in to the DF program from partners and **CDs continue to be involved in the national DF program through regular communications and annual meetings**. Through this process, statewide QAPP and SOP’s have been developed with guidelines specific to projects, but which can be used in the future as templates for any CD.

Quality Assurance

The CTD still holds value of development of a statewide Quality Assurance program for individuals and Districts. While the CTD can offer quality assurance assessments and planning product review upon request, we do not have a dedicated program developer for this area of work at this time.

CTD Coordination

Database: The database (run under Caspio) continues to provide assistance in locating staff expertise for engagement in workgroups, show metrics on expertise and certifications, and grow to a central database for all organizations to utilize. **A self-service portal for employees is available on the CTD website** which allows CD staff to update their personnel profiles, track completed trainings, and more. The CTD is currently working on updates to the Database to allow for better tracking of progress towards planner certifications and to ensure that those pursuing certification are contacted for the appropriate training opportunities.

Budget: **Whatcom CD continues to administer the budget and reporting monthly to the CTD.** Billing guidelines and procedures ensure that work expectations match billing vouchers and that budgets are quickly updated on a monthly basis. The CTD is using Smartsheet to assist with budget and task tracking.

The CTD spent considerable time in FY21 **updating its Charter and creating an annual and long-range plan of work including metrics of success and short-term tasks and deliverables.** The entire plan was input into Smartsheet for regular review, reflection, and revision. The sheet also tracks Gantt chart timelines, budget, staff time, and deliverables for a cohesive and interactive management across all CTD members. **The FY22-23 budget and plan of work are available upon request.**

Leadership:

The CTD Leadership Team and partners (NRCS, WADE, WSCC) continue to meet monthly to ensure tasks are on track.

The CTD continues to prioritize **recruiting new members to both its leadership and working teams.** The CTD has requested the assistance of the Commission staff in helping get the word out the district managers who may recognize potential new members in their own staff.

CTD Contact Information

For more information on the CTD activities, please contact:

CTD contact: Nichole Embertson, Chair

info@wactd.org

For more information, please visit: www.wactd.org



Washington State Conservation Commission

September 15, 2021

TO: Conservation Commission Members
Carol Smith, SCC Executive Director

FROM: Bill Eller, VSP Coordinator

SUBJECT: The Voluntary Stewardship Program County 5 Year Report update

Action Item

☐

Informational Item

☒

Background Summary:

Staff provides an update on the Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP) 5 Year County Report review and evaluation process.

Requested Action:

None. Informational item only.

VSP County 5YR Report Update:

Every five years from the date each VSP county received VSP funding, each county must submit a 5 year report (5YR report) to the county and the Commission. The 5YR report is reviewed and evaluated by the Technical Panel, and the Commission's Executive Director must consult with the VSP Statewide Advisory Committee in order to determine if she agrees with the assertion of the county in the report that they are meeting their VSP work plan goals and benchmarks. If a county isn't meeting their goals and benchmarks, they could fail out of VSP.

For this first round of 5YR reports, the Commission has completed public meetings on all 27 VSP county reports. Results are as follows:

- Carol Smith, Executive Director of the Commission, has concurred with the assertion of the work groups in 23 of 27 counties that the county work group is meeting its work plan goals and benchmarks. These counties (Chelan, Thurston, Kittitas, Mason, Garfield, Asotin, Grant, Cowlitz, Pacific, Okanogan, Benton, Skagit, Whitman, Columbia, Yakima, Douglas, Pend Oreille, Franklin, Walla Walla, Stevens, Ferry, Grays Harbor, and Lincoln) continue to implement VSP as usual.
- One county, San Juan, asserted that it was not meeting its work plan goals and benchmarks, and submitted an adaptive management plan, as required by statute. The Commission and the VSP Statewide Advisory Committee is working with San Juan County for a six month period to implement their adaptive management plan in conjunction to their county VSP work plan, again, as per statutory requirement. At the end of the period, if the county is successful, they will continue to implement

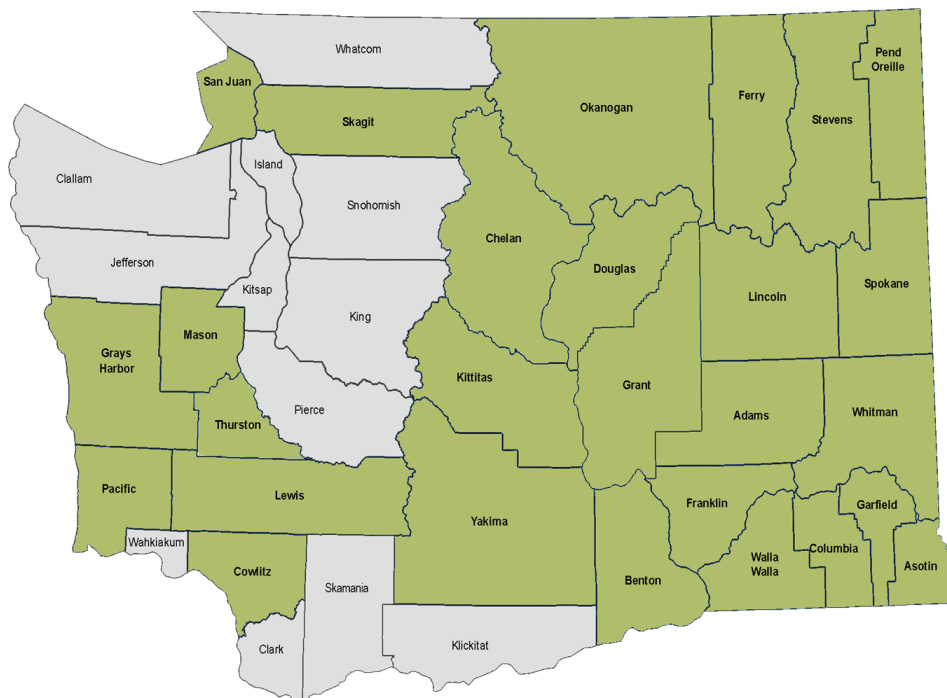
VSP. We anticipate a final meeting with the Statewide Advisory Committee and San Juan County in October or November.

- Three counties (Lewis, Spokane, and Adams) had their public meeting on September 9, 2021, but are still awaiting decisions from the Executive Director. The Director has 60 days from the public meeting to make a decision, and another 30 days to convey that decision to the counties.

The Commission will conduct a stakeholder listening session or “after-action” assessment of the 5YR report template and database with VSP stakeholders on September 29, 2021 by web-meeting only, and more if necessary.

Background:

All 27 VSP counties have approved Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP) work plans (see map below).



All 27 counties are implementing their work plans. After approval of the plan, among other obligations, each county must meet a five year reporting requirement. Each county five year report is due five years after they receive initial funding in VSP. So, each county has their own unique five year report deadline. Commission staff began working with the Technical Panel and Statewide Advisory Committee on the 5YR report process and procedure in November 2018, even before the last county work plan was approved.

Thurston and Chelan counties, since they were the VSP pilot counties, submitted their five year review and evaluation reports in July 2019. The Commission used those reports to further drive the development of the 5YR report process, Guide, Template and Database. The other 25 VSP

counties submitted their five year review and evaluation reports from November 2020 through May 2021.

Due to when the county VSP work plans were approved, most have only had between 12-18 months of VSP implementation since approval, rather than a full 5 years.

The five year reports are reviewed and evaluated by the VSP Technical Panel and Statewide Advisory Committee, and the Conservation Commission's Executive Director must concur (or not) with the county watershed work group's determination in the five year report of whether the work plan's protection and enhancement goals and benchmarks have been met. There is no definition of "review and evaluate" in the VSP statute.

The Commission created a 5YR report Guide which supplements the statutory process and defines key terms (like "review and evaluate") and adds other structure to the review and evaluation process (i.e. report content, how to submit the report, when to submit the report, how long the review will take, what will be reviewed, etc.). A 5YR report template and database were created in order to solicit from each county the information needed by the Director to make her decision.

Staff Contact:

Bill Eller, VSP Coordinator, 509-385-7512, beller@scc.wa.gov

for

Washington State Conservation Commission, September 16, 2021 Meeting

Washington Association of Conservation Districts, September 20, 2021 Board Meeting

NACD National Items

- A. **Insurance.** Roll-out date for NACD offering insurance for districts and supervisors is October 1, 2021. Watch for more information.
- B. **Organizational changes.** With no time frame given, in order to free-up time for the chief executive officer, two positions will be created and they will be involved in day-to-day staff:
1. Chief operating officer
 2. Chief programs officer – A new hire with Rich Duesterhaus fading to a less engaged role.
- C. **[NACD 2022 Annual Meeting](#)** is currently set for Orlando, February 12-16, 2022. NACD is accepting proposals for breakout sessions at the 2022 Annual Meeting. Learn about submitting a proposal [here](#).
- D. **NACD 2022 Summer Meeting** will be in San Juan, Puerto Rico, July 16-19, 2022. Details to be determined. Check the [NACD Events](#) page for information that will be posted.

NACD Pacific Region Items

- A. August 30-31, 2022 [NACD Joint Pacific/Southwest Regions Meeting](#); Jackson, WY, Meeting Summary. The meeting had a marketing theme.
1. Welcome and comments were provided virtually by the Wyoming congressional delegation – Republican Senators John Barrasso and Cynthia Lummis and Representative Liz Cheney (R).
 2. Governor Mark Gordon (R) key note was on Wyoming issues (*E.g.* water, **WOTUS, sage grouse).
 3. All basically said they appreciated CDs and what we do and are supportive. They were critical of the Biden administration (*e.g.* WOTUS and energy efforts) and missed the rapport they felt they had with the Trump administration. Of particular interest were Rep. Cheney’s positive comments of support for our Rep. Dan Newhouse’s leadership of the [Congressional Western Caucus](#).
- B. Although it was smoky and visibility was limited in Jackson, our Washington state marketing messages came through clearly and with much acceptance. Laura Meyer (WSCC) gave a well-received zoom presentation “Cornerstones of Connection: Building Your Outreach Plan”. Her materials were used as a group exercise the second day – with the goal of participants to have a format and get practical application in developing an outreach plan. Doug presented on our Washington Communications, Partnership, and Outreach (CPO) group and the WSCC “[Marketing Toolkit](#)”.
- C. The Pacific Region adopted unanimously its **first strategic plan** covering the period 2022 - 2026; it seems to be the first of all the NACD regions. The plan is to develop specific action items for the upcoming year. Stay tuned for more information and dates from NACD Pacific Region representative Ariel Rivers.
- D. Upcoming Pacific Region Events**

September 7, 2021 at 4:00 PM Pacific time: **NACD Pacific Region Bi-Monthly Meeting** via Zoom - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81855550291?pwd=SlZQWkovS04vNTZlNFpFSm1lYekw3Zz09>

Meeting ID: 818 5555 0291

Passcode: 229545

One tap mobile

+16699006833,,8185550291# US (San Jose)

**WOTUS =Waters of the United States

*As of September 4, 2021. Note highlighted hyperlinks.

Submitted by Doug Rushton, WACD representative on NACD board



WASHINGTON

Partner Activity Report

Natural Resources Conservation Service - Washington

September 2021

Looking ahead toward Fiscal Year '22

A message from the State Conservationist



There are a lot of things happening within NRCS-Washington right now! Some of which is happening behind the scenes, and others that have a direct and positive impact on our mission and relationships across Washington.

First, we have many hiring actions happening, which include the ongoing direct hire initiative and two acting state leadership positions. Chas Scriptor is the acting Assistant State Conservationist for Management and Strategy, and Ben Bonella is the acting East Area Conservationist. Finally, David Rose just took the reigns as the West Area Conservationist. While it has been really tough to lose some great people to other states and organizations, I am incredibly excited to see where our new state leadership team members are able to take us into the future!

One of our primary tasks right now is training and equipping the more than 20 new personnel we

have been on boarding across the state in the past nine months. We've working closely together as a state to develop a workforce strategy that takes a big-picture approach to the process so it's as efficient and complete as possible, so all of our new team members will be quickly brought up to speed so we can put as much conservation on the ground as possible.

Then, we've challenged ourselves to increase our outreach across all of Washington, so all producers, whether farmers, ranchers, forestland owners, aqua culturists, or under-served producers, know about all of the benefits and programs we offer. It's a big undertaking, but we really hope that we're able to broaden the understanding of everything we do with everyone we can help.

So, all in all, it has been a very busy but very beneficial few months, and it will continue to be for the foreseeable future. As always, we're all ears when it comes to any of your thoughts, ideas, and opinions. Please don't hesitate to share them with me or anyone on my staff. We can better conserve our natural resources by working together - and I look forward to working with all of you every day!

Fiscal Year 2022 is going to be great!

~ Roylene Comes At Night

NRCS-WA State Conservationist

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East Area News

First-of-its-kind RCPP project protects Palouse River watershed

By Rich Edlund

Palouse Team District Conservationist

While not quite the oldest Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) project in Washington, the Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) 34 RCPP project was the first of its kind in eastern Washington. Since 2015 the diverse partnership has worked through progress and setbacks to implement the original plan for protection in the Palouse River watershed. A collaboration of conservation districts, state agencies, non-governmental organizations, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Whitman, Adams, Lincoln, and Spokane counties in Washington and Latah county in Idaho met repeatedly in 2015 and into 2016 to decipher the who, what, where, when, and how of deliverables from the over \$5 million project funds from USDA-NRCS to improve the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) designated watershed.

The first program signups in WRIA 34 RCPP were a learning experience. Although NRCS staff had taken applications and conducted conservation planning, the partner planners were almost completely new to it. Recognizing this current need and the goal of independent partner work on applications and conservation planning as



the project evolved several local NRCS staff gave tutorials and in field team trainings to partner planners for these first signups. In the first few years, experienced NRCS staff joined the partner planners and with coordination saw producers working through their RCPP contracts to put conservation practices on the ground, with everyone aligned through a “storming,” “norming,” and “performing” process.

By the third year, the partnership planners were much more fluent with conservation planning processes and the actual contracting of new RCPP program signups was mostly seamless. Our overall focus on the ground went to partner planners implementing and certifying installed practices for payment to help fulfill the RCPP vision of partner independence working with producers and programs. In the

late years of the agreement and as the WRIA 34 RCPP program signups ended the partner planners have largely handled contract administration and implementation, freeing the local NRCS staff for other programs and conservation work.

With the proven capability of the partner planners, and Palouse Conservation District as administrative lead to the partnership group, when the opportunity for a five-year renewal of the WRIA 34 RCPP project became available there was broad support. When the renewal RCPP agreement for WRIA 34 is negotiated and funded we are confident that Palouse River watershed work builds on a firm foundation of successful partnership.

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Central Area Update

By Austin Shero

Central Area Conservationist

We have a lot to be proud of in Central Washington. Our partners and agency employees have been hard at work this year. Through those efforts, and the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Conservation Stewardship Program (CStP), and Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP), NRCS has entered into **144 contracts**, totaling over **\$17.5 million** to address resource concerns within the Central Area. I certainly want to brag on our NRCS crew, but I also know none of this would be possible without the continued assistance, leadership, and amazing relationship we have with our local conservation districts (CDs) and partners. We are proud to be accomplishing the same mission of helping people help the land.

Partners across Central Area have helped assist NRCS complete required Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) status reviews. This task could not have been completed throughout eastern Washington without partner assistance.

A large, robust, and diverse group continues to meet and develop funding strategies surrounding the Odessa aquifer. This group has been meeting for quite some time, and a great deal of momentum is building around proposals to address resource concerns, solve water issues, and improve farming activities around the continually depleting aquifer. Funding opportunities are challenging for a project of this size, but the group is taking a very broad based approach involving multiple agencies, local groups, and state government to target several different funding sources. It is exciting to see this group continue to grow and build.

Final agreements for two new RCPP projects are wrapping up in Central Area. We are very proud of the efforts between NRCS and local partners actively working to address locally identified resource concerns through non-traditional paths.

Two WaterSmart proposals have been submitted across Central Washington. These projects work jointly with NRCS and Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) to resolve current irrigation water distribution issues directly tied to BOR projects. Historically,

Washington has not WaterSmart funding we're eager to utilize this new program to our state.

The Sage Grouse Initiative (SGI) Expiring CRP-Near Lek program in central Washington has been a resounding success.

This program came about through discussions with local partners for the specific priority of protecting at-risk, intact grasslands. Over the course of the last two years, as identified by our local partners and conservation districts, NRCS entered 51 contracts with landowners, thus protecting 23,584 acres. This also created a "bridge" for producers until CRP acres were available to compete for within the area. Thankfully, this opportunity will come for producers in Fiscal Year 2022. NRCS is evaluating the program moving forward into next fiscal year. This is certainly a "mission accomplished" moment for producers, habitat, and the sage grouse. None of this would have been possible without timely action from local partners and CDs, working directly with NRCS field offices, to identify this complex issue and work toward a unique and creative solution!



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Programs

By Keith Griswold

Assistant State Conservationist for Programs

(All information current as of Sept. 7, 2021.)

EQIP obligation information

Contracts	300
Obligations	\$23,241,511.51
Payments	\$533,586.14
Contract Acres	183,576.9

CSP obligation information

Contracts	84
Obligations	\$11,620,001.27
Payments	\$0.00
Contract Acres	213,713.3

RCPP-EQIP obligation information

Contracts	300
Obligations	\$23,241,511.51
Payments	\$533,586.14
Contract Acres	183,576.9

The remaining EQIP and RCPP-EQIP applications need to be contracted in Protracts by **Sept. 29, 2021** to finish out the fiscal year before Protracts is shutdown.

Here are the remaining application numbers to be contracted:

EQIP — 28 applications

CSP — 2 applications

RCPP-EQIP — 4 applications



Management & Strategy

By Chas Scriptor

Acting Assistant State Conservationist for Management & Strategy

Accessing NRCS offices is currently limited due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In general, the NRCS follows the USDA Workplace Safety Plan which provides guidance on how we conduct our activities during the COVID pandemic, including office staffing limits, visitor policy, meetings with partners or producers, and even outdoor training events. The Workplace Safety Plan defers to Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidance for some activities due to the ongoing changing nature of the pandemic. In addition, the Farm Production and Conservation (FPAC) agencies have enacted stricter guidance when necessary to protect our staff and clients.

If a partner, producer or contractor needs to visit an NRCS or other FPAC location please contact local staff prior to going to the office. Visitors are allowed by appointment only at this time, and COVID protocols such as masking and quarantine periods after exposure are required.





Tribal

By Robin Slate

State Tribal Liaison

The Inter-Tribal Agriculture Council, Northwest region will be holding it's annual conference October 4-6.

Speakers include:

- James McCuen, NW Inter-Tribal Ag Council
- Kari Jo Lawrence, Inter-Tribal Ag Council
- Phil Rigdon, Yakama Natural Resources Director
- Toni Stanger McLaughlin, Native American Ag Fund
- Shaina Nomee, University of Idaho Extension
- Chris Schnactschneider, Oregon State University
- Linda McLean and Dan Fagerlie, Washington State University Extension

Representatives from:

- Farm Service Agency
- Rural Development Agency
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Risk Management Agency
- Northwest Climate Hub
- Bureau of Indian Affairs

Registration link:

[EVENTS | IAC \(indianag.org\)](#)

Contact Robin Slate, robin.slate@usda.gov; Kathy Ferge, kathy.ferge@usda.gov for additional information.

Ecological Sciences

By Bonda Habets

State Resource Conservationist

Farm Service Agency's (FSA's) Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) training is scheduled for October 28. This program review will include updates to program administration, step-by-step roles and responsibilities for FSA, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC), and conservation districts (CDs) technical service providers (TSPs).

Nationally, the FSA's Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) approved 1.9 million acres of the 2 million acres requested. The Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21) deadline of conservation plans and document signatures is Sept. 20. Interim plans will be created for those conservation plans that don't get done by that deadline. All CRP conservation plans will be due Dec. 17 to NRCS. In Fiscal Year 2020 (FY20), there are 2,349 expiring contracts on 1,400 farm numbers, for 371,781 acres, FY21: 1,035 contracts on 766 farm numbers, for 94,429 acres, Fiscal Year 2022 (FY22): 1,780 contracts on 1,173 farm numbers for 223,337 acres and Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23): 1,045 contracts.

NRCS and FSA have developed a new Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) that will add soil tests as a deliverable for NRCS to quantify soil carbon in CRP fields.

NRCS will be providing virtual trainings this fall: Nutrient Management training, Working with Producers Transitioning to Organic Production, and Working Effectively with Native Americans. In February a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan writing course will be offered for those that are certified planners and have had the Nutrient Management planning certification.

NRCS-Washington reviewed and recommend six Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG) national proposals for On Farm and two Classic CIG national proposals. The national office will consider our recommendations in selecting proposals to award.



Engineering

Western Water Quantity Strategy

By Larry Johnson

State Conservation Engineer

A Water Quantity Listening Session was hosted by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Dec. 17, 2021. Representatives from the Western United States and Western Tribes attended the session and provided comments, suggestions and recommendations related to water quantity issues. A work group of NRCS western leadership and subject matter experts reviewed

and categorized comments into general and sub-categories. The listening session resulted in five general categories where actions can be taken: interagency coordination, technology and practice standard development, program implementation, communication, and staffing. During the listening session NRCS leadership was asked to lead a strategy session to develop a Western Water Quantity (WWQ) Strategy for the Western United States.

NRCS national leadership requested each western NRCS state conservationist to collaborate with stakeholders in Washington to identify activities and actions for consideration

of incorporation into the WWQ Strategy. NRCS Washington and our stakeholders worked together to develop activities and to assign priorities to each activity. We worked directly with the Washington State Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) and the Washington Tribal Advisory Council (WATCAC) and Washington conservation districts to provide input into Washington's actions and activities to assign priorities. The final report ([available here](#)) is finalized and has been sent to the NRCS WWQ team leaders for consideration in the development of the WWQ Strategy for the Western United States.



NRCS News

NRCS-WA announces 2022 EQIP Classic signup

Contact: Keith Griswold

*Assistant State Conservationist for Programs
Phone: (509) 323-2971*

SPOKANE VALLEY, Wash. (Aug. 11, 2021) USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) announced recently the application deadlines for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Classic in Washington State for Fiscal Year 2022 is Oct. 7, 2021.

EQIP is a voluntary, technical, and financial assistance program designed to help farmers, ranchers, forestland owners, and Tribes with the application of conservation measures. The program focuses strongly on conservation planning, conservation implementation, and solving natural resource concerns, including, but not limited to the following:

- Forestland health improvements
- Irrigation efficiency
- Nutrient run-off and/or animal waste management
- Improving native plant community health
- Removing man made in-stream obstructions for fish passage
- Reducing soil loss from wind or rain
- Wildlife habitat

In most instances, program participants can expect to pay roughly half of the costs associated with implementation of the conservation measures or practices.

Each applicant must establish themselves as a USDA customer and obtain all Farm Service Agency (FSA) eligibility requirements by November 18, 2021. Please note, Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) determination takes an average three weeks to be processed by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). It is highly recommended that applicants submit their completed AGI form to FSA several weeks prior to the FSA eligibility determination deadline of November 18, 2021. Submitting your AGI form to FSA on the last day of the application period will result in your AGI eligibility not being met by the deadline for Fiscal Year 2022.

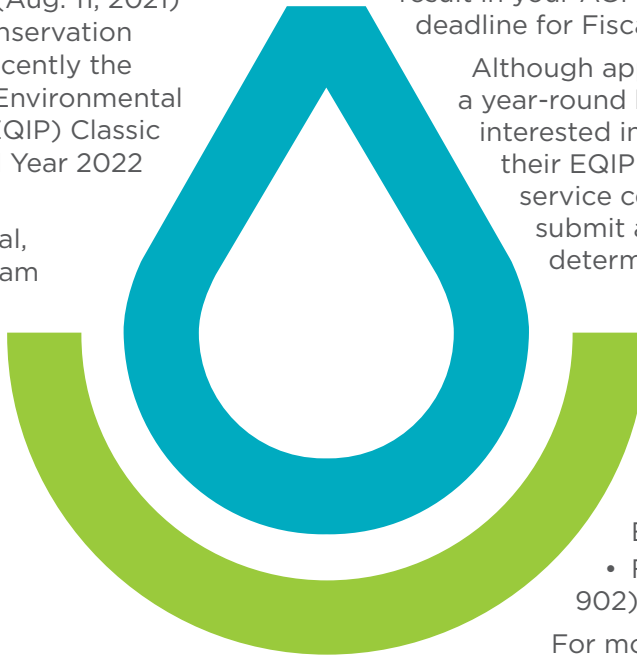
Although applications are accepted on a year-round basis, eligible applicants interested in EQIP Classic must first submit their EQIP Application to their local service center by Oct. 7, 2021, and then submit all of the following eligibility determinations to FSA by Nov. 18, 2021:

- Highly Erodible Lands and Wetland Determination (AD 1026)
- Adjusted Gross Income Form (CCC 941)
- Farm and Track Eligibility determination
- Farm Operating Plan (CCC 902)

For more information about the EQIP program or FSA eligibility, please refer to the USDA Washington Natural Resources Conservation Service website.

"Interested participants are encouraged to apply for 2022 funding," said Keith Griswold, Assistant State Conservationist for Programs. "Please do not wait until the last day to submit your application or attain FSA eligibility determination. It could reduce your chances to treat your identified resource concerns in 2022."

To learn about technical and financial assistance available through conservation programs, visit www.nrcs.usda.gov/GetStarted or your [local USDA service center](#).



NRCS News



USDA Offers Disaster Assistance Washington Farmers and Livestock Producers Impacted by Wildfires and Drought

SPOKANE VALLEY, Wash., (Aug. 20, 2021) –Agricultural operations in Washington have been significantly impacted by the wildfires and ongoing, severe drought. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has technical and financial assistance available to help farmers and livestock producers recover. Impacted producers should contact their local USDA Service Center to report losses and learn more about program options available to assist in their recovery from crop, land, infrastructure and livestock losses and damages.

“Production agriculture is vital to the state’s economy, and USDA stands ready to assist in the recovery from these wildfires and extreme drought conditions,” said Gloria Montañó Greene as Deputy Under Secretary for Farm Production and Conservation (FPAC). “I assure you that USDA employees are working diligently to deliver FPAC’s extensive portfolio of disaster assistance programs and services to all impacted agricultural producers.”

USDA Disaster Assistance for Wildfire and Drought Recovery

Producers who experience livestock deaths due to wildfires and extreme heat (based on actual temperature and varies by state) may be eligible for the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP).

Meanwhile, for both wildfire and drought recovery, the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP) provides eligible producers with compensation for feed losses as well as water hauling expenses associated with transportation of water to livestock. For ELAP, producers will need to file a notice of loss within 30 days and honeybee losses within 15 days.

Livestock producers may also be eligible for the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) for 2021 grazing losses due to drought. LFP benefits may be available for loss of grazing acres due to wildfires on federally managed lands on which a producer is prohibited, by a federal agency, from grazing normally permitted livestock. FSA maintains a list of counties eligible for LFP and makes updates each Thursday.

Additionally, eligible orchardists and nursery tree growers may be eligible for cost-share assistance through the Tree Assistance Program (TAP) to replant or rehabilitate eligible trees, bushes or vines lost during the drought. This complements Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) or crop insurance coverage, which covers the crop but not the plants or trees in all cases. For TAP, a program application must

be filed within 90 days.

FSA also offers a variety of direct and guaranteed farm loans, including operating and emergency farm loans, to producers unable to secure commercial financing. Producers in counties with a primary or contiguous disaster designation may be eligible for low-interest emergency loans to help them recover from production and physical losses. Loans can help producers replace essential property, purchase inputs like livestock, equipment, feed and seed, cover family living expenses or refinance farm-related debts and other needs.

Risk Management

Producers who have risk protection through Federal Crop Insurance or FSA’s NAP should report crop damage to their crop insurance agent or FSA office. If they have crop insurance, producers should report crop damage to their agent within 72 hours of initial discovery of damage and follow up in writing within 15 days. For NAP covered crops, a Notice of Loss (CCC-576) must be filed within 15 days of the loss becoming apparent, except for ...
[Continued here]

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NRCS News



USDA to Invest \$50 Million in New Cooperative Agreements for Racial Justice and Equity

Contact: FPAC.BC.Press@usda.gov

WASHINGTON D.C., (Aug. 25, 2021) – The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is investing up to \$50 million in cooperative agreements to support historically under-served farmers and ranchers with climate-smart agriculture and forestry. The Racial Justice and Equity Conservation Cooperative Agreements are available to entities and individuals for two year projects that expand the delivery of conservation assistance to farmers who are beginning, limited resource, socially disadvantaged, and veteran farmers.

“Historically under-served producers face significant barriers in accessing USDA assistance for conservation and climate-smart agriculture,” said Terry Cosby, Chief of USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). “USDA is committed to revising programs to be more equitable, and these producers deserve our support as they contribute to our vibrant and diverse agricultural communities.” The projects should help historically under-served farmers and ranchers in implementing natural resources conservation practices that:

- Improve soil health;
- Improve water quality;
- Provide habitat for local wildlife species of concern;
- Improve the environmental and economic performance of working agricultural land; and
- Build and strengthen local food projects that provide healthy food and economic opportunities.

Projects should remove barriers to access

and reach historically served groups through a combination of program outreach and technical assistance in managing natural resources that address one or more of the following four NRCS priority areas:

- Addressing local natural resource issues;
- Using climate-smart agriculture practices and principles;
- Encouraging existing and new partnerships; and
- Developing state and community-led conservation leadership for historically under-served agricultural producers, including educating and training students for careers in natural resources management.

Who Is Eligible

- Entities who provide outreach assistance to historically under-served groups are eligible, including:
- Native American tribal governments and organizations.
- Nonprofit organizations
- Private and public institutions of higher education
- Individuals

Historically under-served producers include those who are considered beginning, limited resource, socially disadvantaged, and veteran farmers and ranchers.

How to Apply

Applications must be received by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Standard Time on October 25, 2021. See the [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) announcement for details and application instructions.

This NRCS assistance builds on other USDA assistance to help historically under-served producers. In July, USDA’s Risk Management Agency invested nearly \$1 million in nine risk management education projects ... [[Continue reading.](#)]

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NRCS News

Now Accepting 2021 Hugh Hammond Bennett Award Nominations



The National Conservation Planning Partnership (NCP) is now accepting nominations for the 2021 Hugh Hammond Bennett Award for Conservation Excellence! Please help us spread the word by sharing this call for nominations with your agency.

NCP created the Hugh Hammond Bennett Award for Conservation Excellence in 2017 to honor the legacy of Hugh Hammond Bennett by recognizing producers and conservation planners from within the NCP partnership who have exemplified outstanding service through development and implementation of sound conservation planning and other conservation techniques.

There are two award categories:

- The **Producer Award** will be presented to a producer who demonstrates a commitment to conservation planning, pioneering new opportunities and leadership in the community. The local field office staff that provides assistance to the producer will also receive recognition.
- The **Conservation Planner Award** is independent of the producer award and will be given to an individual who demonstrates a high standard of conservation planning and



implementation for customers as well as sharing his/her expertise with others.

Those interested in submitting a nomination should notify and possibly coordinate with their respective NCP state partner leader: NRCS state conservationist, state conservation district association president or executive director, state conservation district employee association president or executive director, state resource conservation and development council association president or executive director and state conservation agency leadership, or by contacting Nick Vira at nick.vira@usda.gov.

Note: NCP recommends taking

this step to reduce duplication of efforts and to be sure a nomination isn't already planned for your state by the conservation partnership agencies - NRCS, NACD, NASCA, RC&D and NCDEA. Additionally, we encourage you to look at your current and past state conservation farmer/rancher award winners as a starting point for the application process.

Once you're ready to submit a nomination, click on the following link: [2021 Hugh Hammond Bennett Award for Conservation Excellence Nomination Form - Formstack](#) **Note:** You can save the nomination and come back to it at any time by clicking 'save and resume.'

All nominations must be fully completed and submitted by October 1, 2021.

Nominations will only be accepted through the link provided above. Questions can be directed to the National Conservation Planning Partnership Coordinator email at: coordinator@ncpp.info.

For more information, visit the NCP website: [HHB Award Eligibility | National Conservation Planning Partnership](#).



NACD announces second round of FY21 Technical Assistance Grants

By **Jeremy Peters**

NACD CEO

Dear Conservation District Officials,

Today, I am pleased to announce the second round of 2021 awards from the NACD Technical Assistance (TA) Grants program. This is the fourth year we have been able to carry out this project in cooperation with funding from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

These awardees join the growing list of over 300 grantees who have benefited from receiving an NACD TA Grant since the program's inception in 2018. With the \$2.1 million awarded today, nearly \$50 million has been distributed across the nation to support resource technicians, conservation planners, program support specialists and technical specialists based on local needs and priorities. These employees provide conservation technical assistance to help customers carry out their conservation plans. State, territory and tribal conservation partnership leaders have identified high priority locations and workloads to help guide where the funds can best be placed.

Today's awardees intend to use the funds to support about 90 full- and part-time individuals across 56 districts, resulting in approximately 34 full-time equivalent staffing. Multiple districts will be served by some of the grants. Nearly half of the individuals will be new hires, while the rest will have their existing hours expanded with the new workload. This staff is expected to work with nearly 9,000 district clients to increase their access to and completion of contracts and conservation plans.

More than \$600,000 of matching funds are to be added to today's awards, further increasing the impact of the grants. If funds continue to be available and state/territory/tribal conservation partnership leaders desire the work to continue, they will have further opportunities for additional funding.

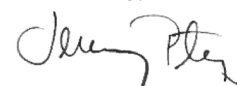
Recipients of this second round of 2021 Technical Assistance Grants include:

California – San Mateo Resource CD, Trinity County RCD
Florida – Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc.
Georgia – Georgia Association of Conservation Districts
Iowa – Clarke County SWCD, Delaware SWCD
Illinois – Association of Illinois Soil & Water Conservation Districts
Indiana – Delaware County SWCD, Sullivan County SWCD
Kansas – Republic County CD
Maryland – Charles SCD
Michigan – Isabella CD, Ottawa CD
Minnesota – Morrison SWCD, Stearns County SWCD
Montana – Hill County CD, Lower Musselshell CD
Nevada – Big Meadow CD
Oregon – Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR), Tiicham CD
Pennsylvania – Cambria County CD
Puerto Rico – Distrito de Conservacion del Este
South Carolina – Anderson SWCD, Saluda SWCD
Tennessee – Hamblen SCD
Utah – Northern Utah CD
Virginia – New River SWCD
Vermont – Winooski Natural RCD
Washington – Quileute Tribe of the Quileute Reservation – Quileute Natural Resources, Whatcom CD, Whidbey Island CD
Wisconsin – Ashland County Land & Water Conservation, Rusk County Land & Water Conservation Division
Wyoming – Laramie County CD, Sheridan County CD

Congratulations to the recipients of these agreements. We especially appreciate all the work on the parts of state and territory conservation partnership leaders in completing requested information for getting these awards.

NACD staff will be following up with the awardees to complete the necessary arrangements for getting agreements signed and funds to them.

Sincerely,




Update for Washington State Conservation Commission, September 2021

1 – September is resolution time

With Area Association meetings coming up in October, September is when conservation district boards will be considering resolutions they wish to bring forward for debate and decision.

2 – Area Association meetings are scheduled

All six area associations have scheduled their annual meetings:

- Wednesday, October 13th – SW Area Meeting hosted by Grays Harbor CD
- Thursday, October 14th – NW area Meeting hosted by Skagit CD
- Tuesday, October 19th – NC Area Meeting hosted by Okanogan CD
- Wednesday, October 20th – NE Area Meeting hosted by Ferry CD
- Tuesday, October 26th – SE Area Meeting hosted by Walla Walla County CD
- Wednesday, October 27th – SC Area Meeting hosted by South Yakima CD

To make access to annual meeting information easier, we have set up a portal on the WACD Hub at <https://hub.wadistricts.org/annual/2021annual/>.

3 – Joint Committee on Elections to present recommendations

Recommendations from the Joint Committee on Elections (JCE) will be presented at your September 16th meeting. WACD will hear those recommendations – along with any actions taken by the Commission – at the WACD Board of Directors meeting on September 20th.

4 – Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion next meeting

The next meeting of the Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (CDEI) is September 13th.

In response to Resolution 2020-05, a draft WACD policy statement has been drafted and edited. The CDEI will seek consensus on a final version of that draft policy statement.

In response to Resolution 2020-06, the 15-member CDEI is currently selecting from a suite of 25 choices that address the six elements in that resolution.

Find the two resolutions at <https://hub.wadistricts.org/wacd/resolutions/>.

5 – WACD is crafting the 2021 annual conference/business meeting

During September, WACD is building the 2021 annual conference program. Because of the recent resurgence of COVID-19, the annual conference sessions will be presented virtually this year.

Based on feedback from last year's conference, we plan to present shorter sessions spread out during the first three weeks of November. We are looking at Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday sessions.

The WACD annual business meeting is scheduled for November 30th at the Hotel Murano in Tacoma. The annual business meeting is being planned as an in-person event with a virtual component to allow maximum participation by member conservation districts and partners. This will be on the September agenda for discussion by the WACD Board of Directors. WACD staff will be presenting information on why this part of the conference planning changed since the August Work Session.

Sincerely,



Tom Salzer, Executive Director

WASHINGTON STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

WSCC Policy No. 05-02 COMM

**ELECTION OF COMMISSION CHAIRPERSON
AND VICE CHAIRPERSON**

*(This policy replaces the prior WSCC Policy Position for Conservation Commission Officers
reaffirmed on September 18, 1992)*

GENERAL TOPIC: **ELECTION OF COMMISSION CHAIRPERSON AND VICE
CHAIRPERSON**

APPROVED: By Commission at the September 2007 Commission Meeting DATE ISSUED: September 20, 2007

PURPOSE

The purpose is to establish policy and procedure on the election of the Commission chairperson per RCW 89.08.050 and vice chairperson.

RCW 89.08.050

...It shall have authority to delegate to its chairman, to one or more of its members, to one or more agents or employees such duties and powers as it deems proper...

...The commission shall organize annually and select a chairman from among its members, who shall serve for one year from the date of his selection...

POLICY

A nominating committee will be appointed annually for the purpose of recommending candidates for the office of chairperson and vice chairperson for action by the governing body at the December Commission Meeting.

The nominating committee may include members of the Commission Board and partnerships.

The term of office for the chairperson(s) and vice chairperson(s) shall be one year, with a maximum of two consecutive terms.

Only the three elected, two appointed, and ex-officio members representing Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Washington State University (WSU) shall be eligible for the office of chairperson or vice chairperson. Ex-officio members

representing the Department of Ecology and the Department of Agriculture shall be ineligible to serve as chairperson or vice chairperson.¹

PROCEDURE

A nominating committee will be appointed annually by the chairperson at or before the September regular Commission meeting for the purpose of recommending candidates for the offices of chairperson and vice chairperson.

At the next regular meeting following the September meeting, the nominating committee shall present recommendations to the governing board and request action. While the recommendation of the nominating committee is not binding on the governing board, it will be carefully considered prior to board action.

The newly elected chairperson and vice chairperson will begin service at next regular or special meeting of the Conservation Commission.

¹ The ex-officio members representing DNR and WSU are eligible because they are non-regulatory agencies. The Washington Association of Conservation Districts is ineligible only because of the high capacity of their service to the Association.