



# 2022 Area Meeting Update



Washington State  
**Conservation  
Commission**

October 2022

# Overview

- Salmon Recovery
- Current Budget and 23/25  
Budget Requests
- Elections
- Personnel
- Other Issues



# Handouts

<https://bit.ly/2022handouts>





# Salmon Recovery Fund

\$10M (operating)

**Purpose:** Fund Riparian Projects Specific to the Salmon Recovery Fund

- Targeted Projects utilizing state and local data
- Demonstrate Effectiveness of Voluntary Incentive Programs
- Data Management

**Update:** Through 9/22

- Over \$6.6 million encumbered
- Additional Rounds of Funding Approved
- 2/3 Projects v. 1/3 TA/Outreach
- Other Policy Outreach and Discussions





# Budget Funding and Requests







## Supplemental Budget Funding

- **Sustainable Farms and Fields (\$2M)**
- **Riparian Restoration Projects (\$10M SRF)**
- **Conservation Equity and Engagement (\$50k)**
- **Riparian Plant Propagation Program (\$1.3M)**
- **District Engineering Services (\$2.7M)**
- **CREP (\$7M - \$2M GF and \$5M SRF)**
- **Agriculture Disaster Assistance (\$600k)**
- **Farmland Protection and Land Access (\$2M – Capital)**
- **Voluntary Stewardship Program (\$3M – Capital)**





## 23-25 Budget Funding Requests (Operations)

- **Conservation Technical Assistance (\$10M)**
- **Riparian Restoration Projects (\$3M – Outreach and TA)**
- **Forest Health and Community Wildfire Resiliency (\$5M)**
- **Agricultural Science Program (\$2M)**
- **SCC FTE Resource Needs (3 FTEs using existing resources)**
- **Agriculture Disaster Assistance (\$1.9M)**
- **Voluntary Stewardship Program (\$1.42M additional over current base funding)**



## 23-25 Budget Funding Requests (Capital)



- **Natural Resource Investments (\$9.8M)**
- **Riparian Restoration Projects (\$10M)**
- **Farmland Protection and Land Access (\$4M)**
- **Irrigation Efficiencies (\$6M)**
- **Shellfish (\$4M)**
- **Regional Conservation Partnership Program (\$3M)**
- **Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (\$7.725M for TA and cost share, \$100k for PIP loan)**
- **Voluntary Stewardship Program (\$3M)**
- **Washington Shrubsteppe Restoration Resiliency Initiative (\$1.5M)**



# Elections



## Four-part recommendation from the JCE:

- I. Conduct elections every other year, rather than every year as done currently.
- II. Extend supervisor terms (for both appointed and elected) from the current three-year term to a four-year term.
- III. Conduct district elections during one Conservation Month.
- IV. Allow conservation districts the option to go on the general election ballot.

**\*\* At the September 2022 commission meeting, SCC staff were directed to move forward with the amended language that passed the committee during the previous legislative session. The amended bill language would additionally provide for financial disclosure forms to be developed by SCC.**

*Read the JCE report: September 2021 meeting materials at [www.scc.wa.gov/commission-meetings](http://www.scc.wa.gov/commission-meetings)*



# Conservation Month

\$30K (SCC budget)



## Conservation Month is...

- **Create awareness** - of conservation districts and the work that they do
- **Promote conservation district elections statewide**
- A tool to help **increase voter turnout**

## Conservation Month is not...

- **A mandate** – more of an incentive for districts to choose March to hold their elections
- **Fully operational** – this year is a building year

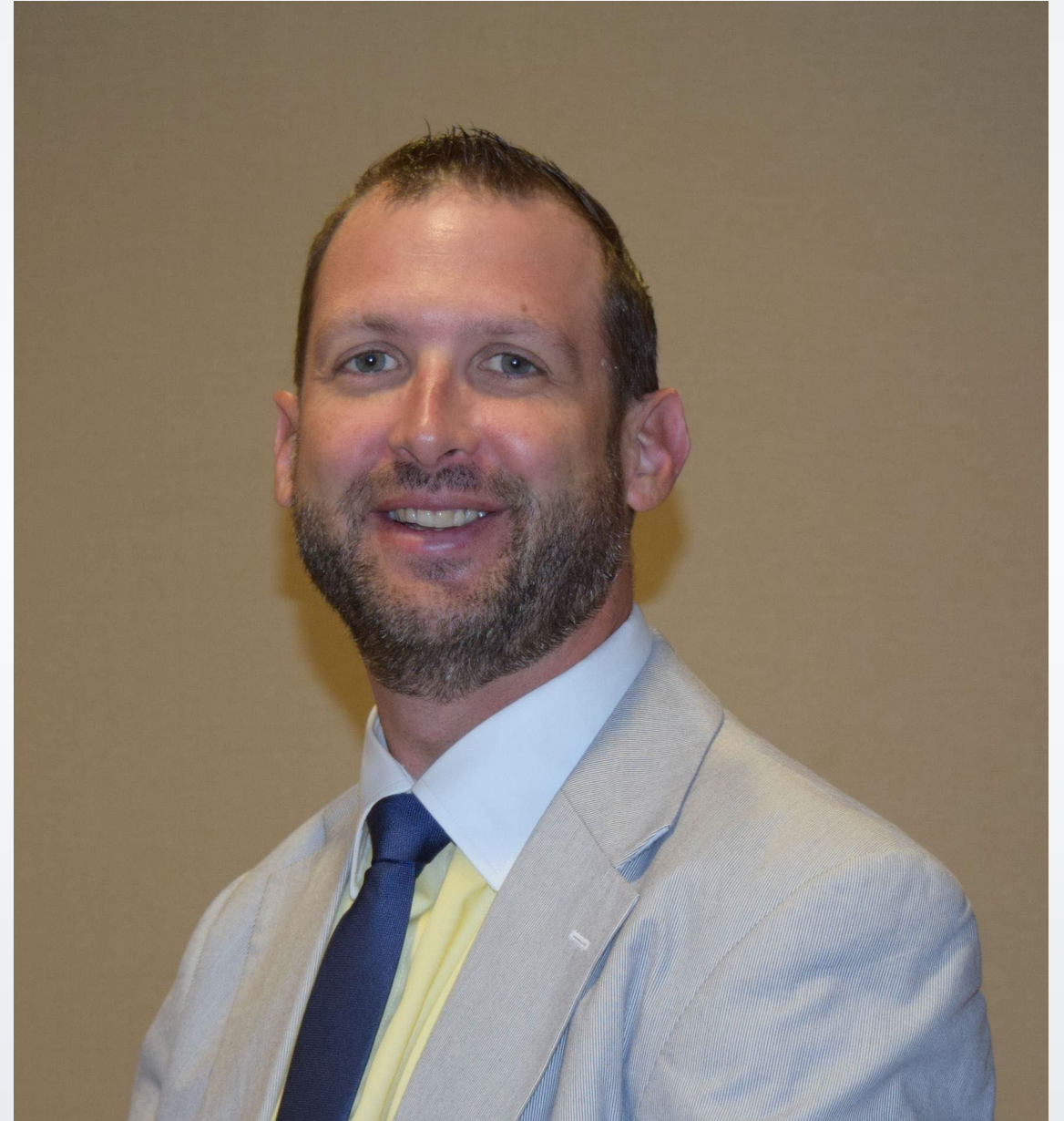




# Personnel

# Welcoming Chris Pettit SCC Executive Director!

Started March 2022





# Additions to our team...



**Paul  
D'Agnolo**  
OFP Specialist



**Kaisha  
Walker**  
Administrative  
Assistant



**Sarah Wilcox**  
Communications  
Project Manager



**Kate  
Ubermuth**  
Grants  
Specialist



**Thomas  
Scheinbein**  
IT Manager

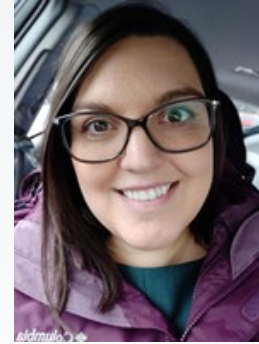


**Toyo Garber**  
Communications  
Specialist

# Changes to our team...



Karla Heinitz has moved to policy team as the Policy Assistant



Paige DeChambeau is the new Communications Director

# Currently hiring...

- SFF Manager (offer accepted, position to be announced)
- RPPP Manager (advertising soon!)
- Contracts Specialist (offer accepted and position to be announced)





# Other Issues

A photograph of two women working on a coastal restoration project. They are kneeling on a concrete curb next to a body of water, planting green plants in a trench. The woman on the left is wearing a grey jacket and gloves, and the woman on the right is wearing a black jacket and gloves. The background shows a body of water and a grassy area.

## Conservation Equity and Engagement

\$50K (operating)


**Purpose:** Fulfill SCC statutory duty to provide equitable opportunities for Washingtonians to engage with our services and the services of CDs.

Adekoya Business Consulting hired as DEI consultant to perform DEI assessment of SCC Operations and Programs

### Initial Items of Interest:

- Accountability, Operations, and Supervisory Training
- Marketing and Outreach
- Existing Policies
- Past Grants and Documentation





The strategic plan is finalized and was approved at the May 2022 meeting







Thank you!



Washington State  
**Conservation  
Commission**



**CONSERVATION DISTRICTS**  
OF WASHINGTON STATE

*your window to healthy lands*