

Regular Business Meeting ~

The Washington State Conservation Commission (Commission/SCC) met virtually as well as in-person on Thursday, November 30, 2023 in Wenatchee, Washington. Chair Daryl Williams called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m.

Note: All meeting materials can be found on our [meetings webpage](#). You will find the meeting packet with background information, presentations and past meeting information.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Daryl Williams, Chairman, *Governor Appointee*
Larry Cochran, Vice-Chairman, *elected eastern region rep.*
Cherie Kearney, *Governor Appointee*
Brook Beeler, *Department of Ecology*
Dean Longrie, *Elected west region rep*
Wade Troutman, *Elected central region rep*
Jim Kropf, *Washington State University*
Mike Mumford, *Washington Association of Conservation Districts*
Perry Beale, *Department of Agriculture*
Karen Zirkle, *Department of Natural Resources*

COMMISSION STAFF PRESENT

Sarah Groth, *Interim Executive Director*
Alicia McClendon, *Administrative Assistant*
Alison Halpern, *Scientific Policy Advisor*
Bill Eller, *Voluntary Stewardship Program*
Jodi Prout, *Communications*
Josh Giuntoli, *Regional Manager*
Karen Hills, *Sustainable Farms and Fields*
Lori Gonzalez, *Executive Assistant*
Mike Baden, *NC and NE Regional Manager*
Sarah Wilcox, *Communications*
Shana Joy, *District Operations Manager*

Quorum present.

PARTNERS REPRESENTED

Angie Reseland, *Dept of Fish and Wildlife*
Doug Rushton, *National Association of Conservation Districts*
Nick Vira, *Natural Resources Conservation Service*
Nick Peak, *Environmental Protection Agency (online)*
Tom Salzer, *WA Association of Conservation Districts*
Heather Wendt, *WA Association of Conservation Districts*
Ryan Baye, *WA Association of Conservation Districts*

GUESTS ATTENDED

Please see “**Attachment A**” for full list of attendees.

ACTIONS TAKEN

CONSENT AGENDA

September 21, 2023 Draft Business Meeting Minutes

Motion by Commissioner Longrie to approve the September 21, 2023 draft business meeting minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Cochran. Motion passes.

November 2, 2023 Draft Special Meeting Minutes

Motion by Commissioner Cochran to approve the draft November 2, 2023 Special Meeting minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Longrie. Motion passes.

COMMISSION OPERATIONS

September 21, 2023 Draft Business Meeting Minutes

Motion by Commissioner Longrie to approve the September 21, 2023, draft business meeting minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Cochran. Motion passes.

November 2, 2023 Draft Special Meeting Minutes

Motion by Commissioner Cochran to approve the draft November 2, 2023, Special Meeting minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Longrie. Motion passes.

DISTRICT OPERATIONS

Grays Harbor Conservation District Mid-term Appointment

Motion by Commissioner Longrie to appoint Richard Boyer to the Grays Harbor Conservation District Board of Supervisors. Seconded by Commissioner Mumford. Motion carried.

Jefferson County Conservation District Mid-term Appointment

Motion by Commissioner Longrie to appoint John Bellow to the Jefferson County Conservation District Board of Supervisors. Seconded by Commissioner Beale. Motion carried.

Disaster Assistance Program Guidelines

Motion by Commissioner Longrie to adopt the revised Disaster Assistance Program Guidelines as shown in meeting packet pages 29-33. Seconded by Commissioner Beeler. Motion carried.

PROGRAMS

Beaver Valley Farms FPLA Authorization

Motion by Commissioner Longrie for the Conservation Commission to accept the FPLA Work Group's recommendation regarding Jefferson Land Trust's Beaver Valley Farm amendment request. The Conservation Commission approves up to \$101,400 in FPLA funding to add the 8.5-acre parcel, bringing the total area to be protected to 47.5 acres. Seconded by Commissioner Beale. Motion carried.

Centralia 43 Funding Authorization

Motion by Commissioner Longrie for the Conservation Commission to accept the FPLA Work Group's recommendation regarding Washington Farmland Trust's Centralia 43 application. The Conservation Commission approves up to \$550,000 in FPLA funding for the acquisition of an agricultural conservation easement on the Centralia 43 property by Washington Farmland Trust. The Conservation Commission authorizes its Executive Director to sign the conservation easement as a third-party beneficiary. Seconded by Commissioner Mumford. Motion carried.

Policy

Agency Requested Legislation

Motion by Commissioner Kearney to adopt **Option #2**: Two members shall be appointed by the governor, one of whom shall be a landowner or operator of a farm, one shall be a member or representative from a federally recognized tribe. Seconded by Commissioner Beeler. Motion carried.

Executive Session

SCC Executive Director Appointment

Motion by Commissioner Cochran to appoint James Thompson to the State Conservation Commission as the new Executive Director, effective December 1, 2023. Seconded by Commissioner Mumford. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 1:35 p.m.