

TAB 2

Washington State Conservation Commission Regular Business Meeting



Dayton, Washington

March 20, 2014

The Washington State Conservation Commission (Commission/WSCC) met in regular session on March 20, 2014, in Dayton, Washington. Commissioner Peters called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Jim Peters, Chair
Clinton O’Keefe, Vice Chair, East Region
Larry Davis, West Region
Lynn Brown, Central Region
Lynn Bahrych, Member
Jim Kropf, WSU-Puyallup
Perry Beale, Dept. of Agriculture
Alan Stromberger, WA Association of Conservation Districts (WACD)
Grant Pfeifer, Department of Ecology (DOE)
Randy Niessner, Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

COMMISSION STAFF PRESENT

Mark Clark, Executive Director
Debbie Becker, Admin. & Finance Director
Ray Ledgerwood, Program Facilitator
Ron Shultz, Policy Director
Larry Brewer, SE Regional Manager
Lori Gonzalez, Administrative Assistant
Josh Giuntoli, OFP Manager

PARTNERS REPRESENTED AT THIS MEETING

Roylene Rides-at-the Door, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
Dave Vogel, (WACD)
Don Larsen, Department of Fish and Wildlife
Rod Hamilton, Farm Service Agency

GUESTS ATTENDED

Raymond Brown, Pine Creek CD, Tom Burgert, WA Wildlife Recreation Coalition, Chris Herron, Washington Association of Wheat Growers (WAWG), Robin Flem, Columbia County CD (CCCD), Ed Teel, NRCS, Debby Nordheim, CCCD, Valerie Turner, CCCD, Kara Rowe, WAWG, Ryan Holteroff, Washington State Potato Commission, Terry Bruegman, CCCD, James Weatherford, Thurston CD, and Josh Monoghan, King CD.

Consent Agenda

Motion by Commissioner Davis to approve the January 16, 2014 Meeting Minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Brown. Motion passed.

Conservation District Appointed Supervisor Appointment

Commissioner Davis, western region representative, reported his recommendation after vetting the two applications received for the re-advertised Pierce Conservation District Appointed Supervisor vacancy.

Motion by Commissioner Stromberger to appoint Mr. Scott Gruber to the Pierce Conservation District as an Appointed Supervisor. Commissioner Davis Seconded. Motion passed.

Office of Farmland Preservation Easement Sponsorship

Josh Giuntoli, SCC staff and OFP Project Manager, presented five grant proposals for WSCC sponsorship of grants to the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program-Farmland Preservation Category. These projects are co-sponsored with two conservation districts: North Yakima, who is sponsoring three and Eastern Klickitat, who is sponsoring two of the easements. The Commission and Conservation District sponsorship would preserve in perpetuity agricultural conservation easements on 22,263 acres of high quality rangeland in Yakima and Klickitat Counties and 462 acres of prime irrigated crop land in Yakima County. The total acreage involved is 22, 725 acres.

Policy Updates

Ron Shultz, SCC staff and Director of Policy, updated the Commissioners on various policy items. Additional background information on these specific items can also be found on the Commission webpage in the meeting materials.

Northwest Indian Fish Commission (NWIFC): Mr. Shultz provided a copy of the WSCC's response letter to the NWIFC. Chair Peters wanted to make sure in our path forward, we continue to work with the other agencies and tribes on how we want to approach our next steps. SCC staff will add detail to the path forward items identified in the approved approach.

Election Proviso Work Group – Mr. Shultz reported the work group held a webinar with the conservation districts. There were 25 people present online. The Commission has the report out for comment, allowing 60 days to submit with a deadline of May 19. The draft final report and recommendation will be coming to the Commission at the July meeting for their approval that include comments submitted, and then to the Legislature for final submittal.

VSP Implementation – Mr. Shultz reported that although the additional VSP funding was not provided this session, we will try again next year. Thurston and Chelan counties are the two counties who will continue implementation. There is a deadline of July 2015 to make recommendations to see if the Counties are implementing these projects. SCC staff will also continue to seek federal funding.

2014 Legislative Session – The legislature passed SHB 2454 directing the SCC to develop a report on the feasibility of water quality trading in the state. The bill directs the Conservation Commission to explore whether there are potential buyers and sellers in Washington watersheds for a water quality trading program. The Commission is to work in partnership with Ecology, and to build consistent with the water quality framework developed by Ecology. The Commission must coordinate with tribes, WSDA and other state agencies, local governments, and interested stakeholders. A final report is due to the Legislature by October 31, 2017.

SCC staff will look at examples from across the country and see what has worked. There are many pilots of this type of work. Mr. Shultz, said it is also the complexity of the markets itself: how many credits? How many credits do you have to buy? Who has the credits? How are you tracking? Etc. Roylene Rides at the

Door, State Conservationist, mentioned NRCS is working with EPA on a national level to determine what practices are below level, and also reported they are working with EPA to become the certifiers so that you would know if the landowner bought the credits, and that they have met criteria.

Dairy Nutrient Symposium- the Commission will be hosting a symposium on May 2 at the Lacey Community Center. The symposium will be focused on the science around the Nutrient Management 590 Standards, not necessarily about the policy aspect. The Commission has put together a steering committee with the Department of Agriculture which will also include the participation from the Dairy Federation, the Environmental Protection Agency, Ecology and some of the conservation districts. They are currently working together to develop an agenda and confirm speakers for the event.

Washington Grown Presentation

Kara Rowe from the Washington Association of Wheat Growers, and Ryan Holteroff of the Washington State Potato Commission did a presentation on a current project titled: Washington Grown. This is brought to citizens by the Washington Farmers and Ranchers (WFR). WFR is a collaboration of agricultural groups working together to help Washingtonians learn more about the food our state supplies locally and globally. A series of videos have been aired on the local television stations. Here is a link to local stories shared throughout Washington: <http://www.wagrown.com/our-stories>.

Ms. Rowe also requests the Conservation Commission join their membership and have a seat at the table to assist in promoting and educating the importance of farm to table and learning where our food comes from.

WACD Technical Capacity Group

Josh Monahan of King Conservation District and James Weatherford, Thurston Conservation District, did a review of the Conservation District Technical Capacity along with a FY15 Budget Request with three budget options for activities in FY15 emphasizing the concepts included are to make a good system of technical services even better through training, mentoring, certification and monitoring results.

Mr. Clark, said there are not many districts that are aware of this opportunity. Mr. Clark suggested the technical capacity group send out the FY15 budget request options to the All-District Google Groups listserv for awareness and comment as it would need support from each district. A couple thousand is estimated to make this happen. Each conservation district will benefit from this statewide effort. Each conservation district should understand and be supported. The Tech Group will gather input from the districts and report back to the Commission at the May meeting in Kelso, WA with the formal budget request for approval.

Legislative Budget Update

Mr. Shultz briefly updated the Commission on the legislative session in regards to budget. Session has concluded and the SCC did not receive any significant additions of funding, and also did not receive any significant cuts. There was an effort to include VSP funding in a supplemental capital budget, but due to other unrelated reasons there was no supplemental capital budget.

Non Shellfish Funding Appeals by Conservation Districts

Debbie Becker, SCC Staff and Finance Director reported on behalf of the subcommittee. The Non-shellfish projects previously not accepted for funding were provided an opportunity to appeal to the subcommittee of Commissioners in mid-February. In the Commission meeting packets are the reports and recommendations of the appeals to be approved. Mrs. Becker stated 47 projects were eligible to appeal. Six appeals were heard, and four were recommended for approval to fund. The following motion made:

Motion by Commissioner Bahrych to approve the first four project appeals, Palouse, Benton, Kittitas (for project #13) and Lewis as recommended by the committee. Seconded by Commissioner Davis. Motion passed.

Shellfish Funding

The Commission was briefed on the status of the shellfish capital funding, Ron Shultz stated the capital dollars will continue to be allocated to district projects through the biennium, or until the funds are expended. They also viewed watershed maps showing the location of projects to see how the funds are being implemented in an effort to be more focused to address resource concerns. The Commission still encourages district to continue entering their projects into the CPDS and complete the additional information for shellfish proposals.

2015-2017 Biennium Budget Development Process

Mark Clark, SCC executive director, walked through the memo that was sent to districts and provided in the Commissioner's Friday Update. The WACD, the Washington Association of District Employees (WADE) and WSCC recently met on hosting an All Districts meeting regarding the 2014-2017 budget development process. This will be an opportunity for District Supervisors and Managers to share their comments and provide input. The All District Meeting will be broken up into two groups to address the Capital and Operating budgets.

Discussion on programmatic budgets can go in either Capital or Operating depending on the dollar value. During the meeting they will work on allocations with the two groups combined. A report and a recommended process will be presented at the May Commission meeting for approval.

WACD 2013 Passed Resolutions

The table provided in the Commission packets shows a total of 18 resolutions in which the SCC was named in. The Commissioners made motions for the following three resolutions 2013-04, 2013-13, and 2013-19:

Motion by Commissioner Brown to accept WACD resolution 2013-04 (Buffer Width Compliance) and pursue it in spirit. Seconded by Commissioner Bahrych.

Commissioner Brown moved for previous question. Seconded by Commissioner O'Keefe. Motion passed.

Main motion passed. One abstention.

Motion by Commissioner Brown to accept the recommendation found in WACD resolution 2013-13 (Request that WACD and WSCC include Resolution no. 08-003 in their discussions with Department of Ecology) Seconded by Commissioner Stromberger. Motion passed.

Motion by Commissioner O'Keefe to accept WACD resolution 2013-19 (State Conservation Commission Agency Partnership Agreements to Expand Existing Sources of Funding for Conservation. Seconded by Commissioner Brown . Motion passed.

Chair Peters adjourned the meeting at 4:05 p.m.



May 15, 2014

TO: Conservation Commission Members

FROM: Mark Clark, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Attendance at the National Association of State Conservation Agencies Annual Meeting for Executive Director, Mark Clark

Summary: The National Association of State Conservation Agencies is holding their Annual Meeting on September 7-10, 2014 in Whitefish Montana. As past president and a member of the association, participation at this meeting is beneficial to the Commission and to NASCA.

Action requested: Seeking approval to attend.

Staff Contact: Mark Clark, Executive Director mclark@scc.wa.gov



May 15, 2014

TO: Conservation Commission Members

FROM: Mark Clark, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Attendance at the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD)
Pacific Region Meeting

Summary: The National Association of Conservation Districts is holding their Pacific and Southwest Region Meeting on September 17-19, 2014, in Portland Oregon.

Action requested: Seeking approval for Executive Director and WSCC Chair attendance.

Staff Contact: Mark Clark, Executive Director mclark@scc.wa.gov