



# **CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

# **MEETING PACKET**

## **JANUARY 2015**

# TAB 1



**PRELIMINARY MEETING AGENDA  
January 15, 2015**

<b>TIME</b>	<b>TAB</b>	<b>ITEM</b>	<b>LEAD</b>	<b>ACTION/INFO</b>
8:30 a.m.		<b>Call to Order</b>		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Additions/Corrections to Agenda Items <b>(pg. 3)</b></li> </ul>	Chair Clinton O'Keefe	
15 minutes		<b>Introductions/Comments</b>	All	
<b>***** PUBLIC COMMENT WILL BE ALLOWED PRIOR TO ACTION ITEMS *****</b>				
8:45 a.m.	<b>2</b>	<b>Consent Agenda</b>		
5 minutes		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approval of the WSCC December 4, 2014 Meeting Minutes <b>(pgs. 6-9)</b></li> </ul>		<b>Action</b>
8:50 a.m.		<b>Tribal History of the Area</b>		
30 minutes		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chairwoman Francis Charles, Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe</li> <li>Vice Chairman Greig Arnold, Makah Indian Nation</li> </ul>		
9:10 a.m.		<b>Resource Stewardship Planning Pilot presentation by:</b>		
30 minutes		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Roylene Rides at the Door, NRCS State Conservationist</li> </ul>		
9:50 a.m.	<b>3</b>	<b>Policy/Programs</b>		
45 minutes		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Legislative Update <b>(pgs.11-19)</b></li> <li>Policy Updates</li> <li>Procedures to Legislative Actions</li> </ul>	Ron Shultz Ron Shultz Mark Clark/Ron Shultz	<b>Information</b> <b>Information</b> <b>Action</b>
<b>10:35 a.m.</b>		<b>BREAK – 15 minutes</b>		
10:50 a.m.	<b>4</b>	<b>Budget</b>		
30 minutes		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Governor's Budget Update</li> <li>WSCC Financial Report</li> <li>Shellfish Funding Update</li> </ul>	Debbie Becker/ Mark Clark Debbie Becker Ron Shultz	<b>Information</b> <b>Information</b> <b>Information</b>
11:20 a.m.	<b>5</b>	<b>District Operations</b>		
40 minutes		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regional Manager Report <b>(pgs. 22-28)</b></li> <li>Resource Assessment</li> <li>PIC in Clallam County</li> </ul>	Shana Joy Harold Crose/Dave Vogel Joe Holtrop,	<b>Information</b> <b>Information</b> <b>Information</b>

Clallam CD  
Manager

12:00 p.m.  
45 minutes

**LUNCH: PLEASE RSVP TO THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION BY JANUARY 5**

12:45 p.m.  
20 minutes

**District Operations (Continued)**

- Presentation by Bill Taylor, Taylor Shellfish Farms

\*\*\*\*\* **PUBLIC COMMENT WILL BE ALLOWED PRIOR TO ACTION ITEMS** \*\*\*\*\*

1:05 p.m.  
90 minutes

**6 Commission Operations**

- WSCC Communications Update/Mission Statement (**pgs. 30-31**)      Laura Johnson/  
Lynn Bahrych      **Action**
- Review 2014 WACD Resolutions (**pgs. 34-59**)      Alan Stromberger      **Action**  
Mark Clark      **Information**
- Discussion on nominating Committee Chair/Vice Chair Elections (**pgs. 60-62**)      Mark Clark/All      **Information**
- Follow up thoughts/comments from September Interaction Dinner in Whatcom      Mark Clark      **Information**
- WSCC Staffing Update (**pg. 63**)
- **Executive Session to discuss personnel matters as allowed by RCW 42.30.110 (1)(i).**

2:35 p.m.

**Adjourn**

Chair Clinton  
O'Keefe

**NEXT MEETING:**

Conservation District Tour **hosted by Thurston Conservation District** will be on March 18, 2015 and the **Conservation Commission Regular Business Meeting** will be held on March 19, 2015.

**Meeting Location:**

Best Western Plus Lacey Inn & Suites  
8326 Quinault Drive NE  
Lacey, WA 98516 **Phone:** 360-456-5655

The times listed above are estimated and may vary. Every effort will be made, however, to adhere to the proposed timelines. If you are a person with a disability and need special accommodations, please contact the Conservation Commission at (360) 407-6200.

# TAB 2

Washington State Conservation Commission Regular Business Meeting  
Cle Elum, Washington  
December 4, 2014

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The Washington State Conservation Commission (Commission/WSCC) met in regular session on December 4, 2014, in Cle Elum, Washington. Chair Peters called the meeting to order at 8:38 a.m.

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**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT**

Jim Peters, Chair  
Clinton O'Keefe, Vice Chair, East Region  
Lynn Brown, Central Region  
Lynn Bahrych, Member  
Jim Kropf, WSU-Puyallup  
Perry Beale, Dept. of Agriculture  
Todd Welker, Dept. of Natural Resources  
Josh Baldi for Kelly Susewind, Dept. of Ecology  
Alan Stromberger, President, WA Association  
Larry Brewer, Southeast Regional Manager of Conservation Districts (WACD)

**COMMISSION STAFF PRESENT**

Mark Clark, Executive Director  
Ron Shultz, Policy Director  
Ray Ledgerwood, District Operations Manager  
Debbie Becker, Financial Director  
Shana Joy, Puget Sound Regional Manager  
Brian Cochrane, Salmon Habitat & Monitoring Coordinator  
Lori Gonzalez, Administrative Assistant  
Laura Johnson, Communications & Outreach  
Larry Brewer, Eastern Regional Manager

**PARTNERS REPRESENTED AT THIS MEETING**

Roylene Rides-at-the Door, State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)  
Dave Vogel, Executive Director, Washington Association of Conservation Districts  
Rod Hamilton, Farm Service Agency (FSA)

**GUESTS ATTENDED**

Ben Rau, Dept. of Ecology, Jennifer Boie, Palouse CD, Wendy Pare, Skagit CD, Monte Marti, Snohomish CD, Dean Hellie, Eddie Johnson, Lincoln CD, Lee Hemmer, Foster Creek CD, Kathy Whalen, Thurston CD, Mark Moore, Mike Nordin, Pacific CD, and Mike Rickel, Cascadia CD.

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**Chair Peters called for Public Comment:**

Monte Marti, Snohomish Conservation District thanked the State Conservation Commission (SCC) for the addition of Shana Joy, Puget Sound Regional Manager. She has been a great help with the Puget Sound District Caucus in moving forward with policy. Monte also thanked Laura Johnson for her work and efforts in communications and helping districts across the state.

Lee Hemmer, Foster Creek Conservation District expressed that he is very thankful for the SCC's leadership and assistance during their hard times with emergency response to a fire in their county in 2012. He had attended Bill Eller, SCC staffs, presentation the day prior on Emergency Response. Expressed it was a good session and looks forward to see what more comes out of it.

**Consent Agenda**

Commission members reviewed the Regular Business Meeting minutes from September 18, 2014 and requests for approval of Chair and Executive Director to attend upcoming National Association of Conservation District's (NACD) Conferences. The following motion was made:

**Motion by Commissioner Brown to approve the September 18, 2014 meeting minutes and approval of Chair and Executive Director to attend the February and March 2015 NACD meetings. Seconded by Commissioner Baldi. Motion passed.**

### **Cultural Resources Policy**

Commissioner Bahrych discussed the committee's work on the new draft of the proposed policy and procedures of the WSCC Cultural Resource Policy for WSCC funded cost share projects.

The committee decided all projects should be with state funded money. The draft proposed policy was sent out to all districts for comment last summer and received back very few. The comments that were received, most districts were in favor of the money coming out of the Capital budget.

The committee is still working through some more issues, one of them being the definition of 'ground disturbing practices'. Chair Peters mentioned that we should consider looking to see if NRCS has language we could look at.

The Commission directed the committee to send out the new draft to Districts and the WACD Tribal Task Force for review and comment. The information will then be rolled up for consideration at the March Conservation Commission meeting.

### **CD Elections Update**

Ray Ledgerwood, SCC staff reported on Bill Eller who is also the SCC's Elections Officer. 16 districts have set their elections so far. Deadline for districts to have conducted their elections is March 2015. Ray also discussed the retention of information. The new Appointed Supervisor Application is currently being worked on for online submission.

### **Coordinated Resource Management (CRM) update**

Ray Ledgerwood shared the meeting notes from the CRM Executive Session that occurred in October 2014 in Long Beach. Ray expressed his appreciation for a job well done to Pacific CD Manager, Mike Nordin's work in coordinating the executive committee's tour. The executive committee toured a shellfish project area in Pacific County. Next year, the committee will be touring the Carlton Complex Fire area.

Mark Clark, SCC Executive Director, is the Chair of the CRM group for 2015. Discussed the lack of staff currently dedicated to move group forward and funding. A request of \$2500 would be needed from each participating agency to assist in costs for ongoing efforts and facilitation.

Director Clark will be meeting with each director to discuss the benefits and value in participating with various agencies of CRM.

### **Legislative Update**

Ron Shultz, SCC Policy Director discussed the latest information of the upcoming session. The Legislative make up has changed: Senate is now 26-23 Republican majority. Senator Schoesler was voted committee chair. House is now 51-47, Democratic majority. The House has not set up committee chairs yet.

Mr. Shultz discussed the state budget. November revenue forecast is up approximately \$400 million for the 2015-17 biennium. Biennial budget is now at approximately \$36 billion, up from the current \$33 million in the current biennium- added costs from inflation and increased caseload is more than \$2 billion. Other costs include state employee union contract increases of more than \$600 million. McCleary K-12 house target figure is \$1.2 billion. Initiative 1351 (reducing class sizes) will approximately add \$2 billion.

### **Nutrient Application Legislation**

Commissioner Perry Beale, Department of Agriculture representative, gave a general overview of the Nutrient Application legislation; Governor approached the WA State Dept. of Ag (WSDA) on potential to pollute with surface and ground water. WSDA was asked to write legislation in coordination with Dept. of Health, Dept. of Ecology, and the SCC. They had two weeks to draft legislation. Z draft was sent out yesterday (12/3/14). Commissioner Beale went over some of the language in the draft legislation.

This legislation will be requiring a management plan and record keeping in just two western WA counties and one in Eastern WA County. Licensing and applications will be done by the WSDA. Manure application established at WSDA. Any person who applies manure to a total of 20 acres or more annually of ag land, or applies manure in excess of a specified amount identified in rule, must have a certificate from WSDA and follow a Manure Application Plan. Manure is defined as any organic waste generated by livestock. If applied by an applicator other than the producer, the producer must provide an application plan.

The Manure Application plan must be updated to reflect current condition at the time of the manure application. Applies to counties identified by WSDA.

WSDA is the lead on manure applicator certificate, cost is \$50.

By January 2017, the WSCC must develop and implement a web based, real time reporting system of land manure application to assist in the implantation of the law. The WSCC shall maintain and updating the reporting system as necessary. )

#### **Chair Peters called for Public Comment:**

Mike Nordin, Pacific CD spoke on the Salmon Recovery document that can be found on the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO) website. He stated the Lead Entity Coordinating Group worked on the document and it does not at all discuss conservation districts. In the document they discuss wanting to do work with many entities but the conservation districts.

Carolyn Kelly, Skagit CD also spoke in regards to the Lead Entity Coordinating Group, it is concerning districts are not mentioned because there are many districts who participate in this group.

Director Clark shared an email Kaleen Cottingham, Director of the Recreation Conservation Office sent to him recently congratulating conservation districts for a job well done. Conservation Districts have contributed to 70% of the open stream miles. These are successes we need to share.

#### **Ecology Non Point Plan Update**

Ben Rau, Dept. of Ecology staff, discussed the plan key document for Ecology. They will need to have this updated by June 2015. Current version of plan published in April 2000. Last updated in June 2005. Why are they updating now? EPA Guidance review and update plans every five years. – Federal interest in nonpoint pollution. What is EPA looking for: Explicit short and long term goals, objectives, and strategies. Strengthening partnerships, etc. Update process is to have the plan submitted to EPA June 2015. Webinar to kick off updated process, early 2015. Public meetings spring 2015, Public comment period – Spring 2015. Ecy staff is available to meet with all stakeholders as needed. His contact is Ben Rau [ben.rau@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:ben.rau@ecy.wa.gov) or 360-252-0294.

#### **Coordinated Investment Strategy**

Ron Shultz spoke on the CI. In September Steve Landino from NOAA provided a presentation to the Commission on Coordinated Investments. There was a meeting with agency directors, state and federal a couple of weeks ago. They walked through the background of the CI proposal that was presented in September. At the meeting, EPA had a slide describing a "CREP like" program. Having \$5.8 million available for a "CREP like" program. They would acquire outright property in the riparian area. SCC has and has expressed concerns around the "CREP like" approach. The SCC has a CREP program itself, SCC staff has sat down and provided presentations on CREP to EPA on the ideas for their program, but did not hear back. SCC has continued to express they are open to more conversations.

Roylene Rides at the Door, NRCS State Conservationist has a meeting in January with all the Tribal Leaders, which they too have, concerns with the coordination.

A commission member expressed concerns on why Ecology had not reached out to groups and agencies that are already doing these programs. Stating the lead agencies should take the initiative to reach out to others. The Commission wants to be partners in this; we are not the public. We are partners here to reach the same goals.

#### **CREP Stream Miles for Walla Walla Conservation District**

Brian Cochrane, SCC's new Salmon Habitat and Monitoring presented to the Commission seeking approval a request to include five (5) miles of Mud Creek in Walla Walla County in the Conservation Reserve Program.

Brian also shared the state is limited by agreement with FSA to 10,000 miles of eligible stream miles for CREP. The number of remaining eligible stream miles for CREP projects is now estimated at 382.3.

**Motion by Commissioner Bahrych to approve Walla Walla Conservation District's request to include five miles of Mud Creek to the CREP eligible stream list. Seconded by Commissioner Baldi. Motion passed.**

#### **Non Shellfish Funding Update**

Debbie Becker, SCC Finance, provided an update on the non-shellfish money. Debbie listed the districts with the number of landowners along with listing the time and dollars spent.

- Finish all projects by June 30<sup>th</sup>
- \$4,252,296 awarded
- \$1,184,218 payments made
- \$3,068,079 remaining

#### **Shellfish Funding**

Mr. Shultz provided an update on where the funding for shellfish funding is currently at.

Total amount awarded to date: \$3,427,965. Yet to approve: \$14,929,129 total for the projects currently listed into the CPDS system. Total remaining from the total awarded: \$597,023.

#### **Chehalis Flood Budget Update**

Chehalis Workgroup has met. There is a Flood Authority Group that involves many agencies. Proposals were put together and submitted to the Governor's advisory team. If the budget should get approved, the SCC will be looking at continue efforts on small projects on the ground, critter pads and working towards preparedness if there should be another major flood event.

#### **Election of Chair and Vice Chair**

**Motion by Commissioner Bahrych to elect Clinton O'Keefe to serve as Chair of the Conservation Commission. Seconded by Commissioner Stromberger. Motion passed.**

**Motion by Commissioner Bahrych to elect Lynn Brown to serve as Vice-Chair of the Conservation Commission. Seconded by Commissioner Beale. Motion passed.**

Commissioners request time in January to discuss election of Chair and Vice Chair and also discuss agency representatives serving as Chair/Vice Chair.

**Chair Peters adjourned at 1:55 p.m.**

# TAB 3



# Washington State Conservation Commission

January 8, 2015

**TO:** Conservation Commission Members  
Mark Clark, Executive Director

**FROM:** Ron Shultz, Policy Director

**SUBJECT:** Legislative Update

**Summary:** The 2015 Legislative Session begins January 12. Committee assignments have been made and work sessions scheduled for several committees.

**Staff Contacts:** Ron Shultz, Policy Director (360) 407-7507 rshultz@scc.wa.gov

**Description:**

The 2015 Legislative Session begins Monday, January 12. It will be a 105-day session. Key legislative dates include:

January 12	First day of session
February 20	Policy bills out of committee
February 27	Budget bills out of committee
March 11	Last day for bills to be out of chamber of origin (5pm)
<i>March 19</i>	<i>Revenue Forecast</i>
<i>March 25</i>	<i>WACD Legislative Days</i>
April 1	Policy bill from opposite chamber out of committee
April 7	Budget bills from opposite chamber out of committee
April 15	Last day to consider opposite house bills (5pm)
April 26	Last day of regular session

Committee assignments (included after each member's name are the counties represented by the member):

Senate Agriculture, Water & Rural Economic Development

Judy Warnick (R) Chair	Grant (part), Kittitas, Lincoln, Yakima (part)
Brian Dansel (R) vice-chair	Ferry, Okanogan (part), Pend Oreille, Spokane (part), Stevens
Brian Hatfield (D) ranking minority	Cowlitz (part), Grays Harbor (part), Lewis (part), Pacific, Wahkiakum
Steve Hobbs (D)	Snohomish
Jim Honeyford (R)	Yakima

### Senate Energy, Environment & Telecommunications

Doug Ericksen (R) Chair	Whatcom
Tim Sheldon (D) vice-chair	Mason, Thurston (part), Kitsap (part)
John McCoy (D) ranking minority	Snohomish
John Braun (R)	Lewis, Thurston (part), Cowlitz (part)
Sharon Brown (R)	Benton
Annette Cleveland (D)	Clark
Cyrus Habib (D)	King
Jim Honeyford (R)	Yakima
Kevin Ranker (D)	San Juan, Skagit (part), Whatcom (part)

### Senate Natural Resources & Parks

Kirk Pearson (R) Chair	King (part), Skagit (part), Snohomish (part)
Brian Dandel (R) vice-chair	Ferry, Okanogan (part), Pend Oreille, Spokane (part), Stevens
Brian Hatfield (D) ranking minority	Cowlitz (part), Grays Harbor (part), Lewis (part), Pacific, Wahkiakum
Maralyn Chase (D)	King (part), Snohomish (part)
Mike Hewitt (R)	Benton (part), Columbia, Franklin (part), Walla Walla
Rosemary McAuliffe (D)	King (part), Snohomish (part)
Judy Warnick (R)	Grant (part), Kittitas, Lincoln, Yakima (part)

### Senate Ways & Means

Andy Hill (R) Chair	King
John Braun (R) Vice Chair	Lewis, Thurston (part), Cowlitz (part)
Bruce Dammeier (R) VC, Ed Finance	Pierce
Jim Honeyford, Vice Chair, Cap Bud	Yakima
Jim Hargrove (D) Ranking Minority	Clallam, Grays Harbor (part), Jefferson
Kevin Ranker (D) Ranking Op Bud	San Juan, Skagit (part), Whatcom (part)
Karen Keiser (D) Ranking Cap Bud	King
Barbara Bailey (R)	Island, Skagit (part), Snohomish (part)
Randi Becker (R)	Pierce (part), Thurston (part)
Andy Billig (R)	Spokane
Sharon Brown (R)	Benton
Steve Conway (D)	Pierce
Karen Fraser (D)	Thurston
Bob Hasegawa (D)	King
Brian Hatfield (D)	Cowlitz (part), Grays Harbor (part), Lewis

Mike Hewitt (R)	(part), Pacific, Wahkiakum Benton (part), Columbia, Franklin (part), Walla Walla
Jeanne Kohl-Welles (D)	King
Steve O'Ban (R)	Pierce
Linda Evans Parlette (R)	Chelan, Douglas, Grant (part), Okanogan (part)
Mike Padden (R)	Spokane
Christine Rolfes (D)	Kitsap
Mark Schoesler (R)	Adams, Asotin, Franklin (part), Garfield, Spokane (part), Whitman
Judy Warnick (R)	Grant (part), Kittitas, Lincoln, Yakima (part)

### House Agriculture & Natural Resources

Brian Blake, Chair (D)	Cowlitz (part), Grays Harbor (part), Lewis (part), Pacific, Wahkiakum
Kristine Lytton, Vice Chair (D)	San Juan, Skagit (part), Snohomish (part)
Vincent Buys (R) Ranking Min	Whatcom
Tom Dent (R)	Grant (part), Kittitas, Lincoln, Yakima (part)
Bruce Chandler (R)	Yakima
Hans Dunshee (D)	Snohomish
Christopher Hurst (D)	King (part), Pierce (part)
Joel Kretz (R)	Ferry, Okanogan (part), Pend Oreille, Spokane (part), Stevens
Ed Orcutt (R)	Clark (part), Cowlitz (part), Lewis (part), Thurston (part)
Eric Pettigrew (D)	King
Joe Schmick (R)	Adams, Asotin, Franklin (part), Garfield, Spokane (part), Whitman
Derek Stanford (D)	King (part), Snohomish (part)
Kevin Van de Wege (D)	Clallam, Grays Harbor (part), Jefferson

### House Appropriations

Ross Hunter, Chair (D)	King
Timm Ormsby, Vice Chair (D)	Spokane
Bruce Chandler (R) Ranking Min	Yakima
J.T. Wilcox (R) Ranking VC	Pierce (part), Thurston (part)
Kevin Parker (R) Ranking VC	Spokane
Vincent Buys (R)	Whatcom
Reuven Carlyle (D)	King
Eileen Cody (D)	King

Cary Condotta (R)	Chelan, Douglas, Grant (part), Okanogan (part)
Tom Dent (R)	Grant (part), Kittitas, Lincoln, Yakima (part)
Hans Dunshee (D)	Snohomish
Susan Fagan (R)	Adams, Asotin, Franklin (part), Garfield, Spokane (part), Whitman
Larry Haler (R)	Benton
Drew Hansen (D)	Kitsap
Zach Hudgins (D)	King
Graham Hunt (R)	Pierce (part), Thurston (part)
Sam Hunt (D)	Thurston
Laurie Jinkins (D)	Pierce
Ruth Kagi (D)	King (part), Snohomish (part)
Kristine Lytton (D)	San Juan, Skagit (part), Snohomish (part)
Drew MacEwen (R)	Kitsap (part), Mason, Thurston (part)
Chad Magendanz (R)	King
Eric Pettigrew (D)	King
David Sawyer (D)	Pierce
Joe Schmick (R)	Adams, Asotin, Franklin (part), Garfield, Spokane (part), Whitman
Tana Senn (D)	King
Larry Springer (D)	King
Stokesbary;	
Pat Sullivan (D)	King
David Taylor (R)	Yakima
Steve Tharinger (D)	Clallam, Grays Harbor (part), Jefferson
Luanne Van Werven (R)	Whatcom
Brady Walkinshaw (D)	King

House Capital Budget

Hans Dunshee, Chair (D)	Snohomish
Derek Stanford, Vice Chair (D)	Snohomish
Richard DeBolt (R) Ranking Mem	Clark (part), Cowlitz (part), Lewis (part), Thurston (part)
Norma Smith, Ranking VC	Island, Skagit (part), Snohomish (part)
Christine Kilduff (D)	Pierce
Linda Kochmar (R)	King (part), Pierce (part)
Strom Peterson (D)	Snohomish
Marcus Riccelli (D)	Spokane
Maureen Walsh (R)	Benton (part), Columbia, Franklin (part), Walla Walla

House Environment

Joe Fitzgibbon, Chair (D)	King
Strom Peterson, Vice Chair (D)	Snohomish
Matt Shea (R)	Spokane
Shelly Short (R)	Ferry, Okanogan (part), Pend Oreille, Spokane (part), Stevens
Jessyn Farrell (D)	King
Jake Fey (D)	Pierce
Roger Goodman (D)	King
Paul Harris (R)	Clark
Joan McBride (D)	King
Liz Pike (R)	Clark
David Taylor (R)	Yakima

House Local Government

Dean Takko, Chair (D)	Cowlitz (part), Grays Harbor (part), Lewis (part), Pacific, Wahkiakum
Mia Gregerson, Vice Chair (D)	King
David Taylor (R) Ranking Mem	Yakima
Dan Griffey (R)	Mason, Thurston (part), Kitsap (part)
Joe Fitzgibbon (D)	King
Joan McBride (D)	King
Bob McCaslin (R)	Spokane
Strom Peterson (D)	Snohomish
Liz Pike (R)	Clark

2015-17 Capital Budget Comparison

	<u>2013-15</u>	<u>SCC Request</u>	<u>Gov Proposed</u>
CREP Riparian Cost Share	2,590,000	2,600,000	2,600,000
CREP Riparian Cost Share – Reappropriation	850,000	800,000	800,000
CREP Riparian Contract	2,231,000	2,231,000	2,231,000
CREP Riparian Contract - Reappropriation		500,000	500,000
CREP PIP Loan	180,000	100,000	100,000
CREP PIP Loan – Reappropriation		150,000	150,000
Natural Resource Investments- shellfish	4,500,000	8,000,000	4,000,000
Natural Resource Investments- non-shellfish	4,500,000	8,000,000	4,000,000
Non-shellfish Reappropriation			2,250,000
Match for Federal RCPP		4,000,000	4,000,000
Forest, Rangeland Health and Fire Resiliency		3,080,000	1,000,000
Disaster Recovery, Response, and Training		2,575,000	0
Stormwater – Green Stormwater Infrastructure		1,082,000	0
Irrigation Efficiencies (via Ecology)	4,000,000	8,000,000	4,000,000

Line Item Descriptions

**CREP Riparian Cost Share - State Match** - The Commission will provide grant funding to complete projects that restore and preserve salmon habitat. Grant funds will be used by the Commission and local conservation districts to administer the program, purchase conservation easements, and construct and preserve habitat buffers.

**CREP Riparian Contract Funding** - The Commission will provide grants to develop plans and conduct landowner outreach to continue the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program with private landowners.

**CREP PIP Loan Program** - The Commission will provide grants to be used as bridge funding for landowners while they wait for reimbursements from the U.S. Department of Agriculture for the investments in riparian installation projects.

**Natural Resources Investment –Non-shellfish** - The appropriation is provided solely for grants to complete natural resource enhancement projects necessary to improve water quality in non-shellfish growing areas.

**Natural Resources Investment –Shellfish** - The appropriation is provided solely for grants to complete natural resource enhancement projects necessary to improve water quality in shellfish growing areas.

**Match for Federal RCPP** – The appropriation is provided solely for the state's match of a USDA grant of up to \$20,000,000 for the regional conservation partnership program (RCPP). The state match is for implementation of projects that include USDA approved activities. The RCPP encourages coordination between the NRCS and local partners or to deliver conservation assistance to agricultural producers and landowners. If none of the eight proposals from entities in Washington state are approved by the USDA by July 1, 2015, this section is null and void.

**Forest, Rangeland Health, and Forest Resiliency** - Funding is provided in the DNR Fire Hazard Reduction appropriation as follows: \$1,000,000 is provided solely for grants to local communities, counties, fire districts, and conservation districts to establish new firewise communities and complete near-term actions to increase public safety. The department must implement policies and procedures to follow by local communities, counties, fire districts, and conservation districts that seek to enroll in the firewise program.

**Irrigation Efficiencies** - Appropriation is provided solely for technical assistance and grants to conservation districts for the purpose of implementing water conservation measures and irrigation efficiencies. Ecology and the SCC shall give preference in order of priority to projects located in the 16 fish critical basins, other water short basins, and basins with significant water resource and instream flow problems. Projects that are not within basins as described in this subsection are also eligible to receive funding.

Conservation districts statewide are eligible for grants listed in subsection (1) of this section. A conservation district receiving funds shall manage each grant to ensure that a portion of the water saved by the water conservation measure or irrigation efficiency will be placed as a purchase or a lease in the trust water rights program to enhance instream flows. The proportion of saved water placed in the trust water rights program must be equal to the percentage of the public investment in the conservation measure or irrigation efficiency. The percentage of the public investment may not exceed eighty-five percent of the total cost of the conservation measure or irrigation efficiency.

Up to \$300,000 of the appropriation in this section may be allocated for the purchase and installation of flow meters that are implemented in cooperation with the WDFW fish screening program authorized under RCW2477.57.070.



# Washington State Conservation Commission

## 2015 - 17 Operating Budget Comparison

	<u>SCC Request</u>	<u>Gov Proposed Book 1</u>	<u>Gov Proposed Book 2</u>
Maintenance Level (includes state and federal funding)	16,783,000	16,763,000	16,763,000
Reductions to Grants and Admin	(2,022,000*)	(2,022,000)	(722,000)
Various Reductions and Additions		146,000	146,000
Resource Specific Improvements	2,022,000	670,000	670,000
Total	16,783,000	15,557,000 7.2% cut	16,857,000
<u>Program Pass-Through</u>			
VSP	7,660,000	0	7,600,000
Carlton Complex Fire Recovery	5,247,500**	7,730,000	7,730,000

**NOTE:** \* = Reflects required submittal of proposed 15% cut. \*\* = Reflects state fund request only, no federal fund.

### Line Item Detail

**Reductions to Grants and Admin:** The \$2 million request figure is the 15% reduction amount all agencies were required to submit. The Governor’s proposed budget reduces technical assistance for administrative training to conservation districts. Pass-through funding to conservation districts for non-regulatory, incentive-based approaches is also reduced.

**Various Reductions and Additions:** Includes reductions and adds in administrative areas including payments to central services, reductions to fleet vehicle services, changes to the state leave and attendance system, and public employee general wage increases.

**Resource Specific Improvements:** The Conservation Commission provides assistance to agricultural producers to meet the state's conservation goals. Nutrient management and its impact on surface and groundwater has been an increasing concern in recent years. Farmers, ranchers, dairy producers, poultry operators and small acreage land owners will receive technical services to develop and implement conservation plans where nutrient management is the overarching consideration.

**Voluntary Stewardship Program:** Funding is provided in Book 2 from the Public Works Assistance Account to fully fund implementation of the VSP.

**Carlton Complex Fire:** \$3,000,000 GF-S and \$4,730,000 of the general fund-federal is provided to help landowners recover from losses sustained during the Carlton Complex fire. Funding is intended but not limited to activities that prevent crop damage from wildlife and protect water quality. In addition to the new GF-S funding, there is an additional supplemental funding to backfill funding provided during the fire event.

**TAB 4**

# TAB 5

# January 2015 Commission Meeting

## District Operations Staff Report (September 2014 to January 2015)

### Conservation District Assistance

Activities included:

- Conservation Practice Data System (CPDS) projects review, prioritization, assistance and data (all districts)
- Land owner contacts (Grays Harbor, Pacific)
- Supervisor election and appointment assistance (all districts)
- Financial budgeting, planning and banking (Skagit, Clark)
- Implementation monitoring (Underwood)
- Plant materials shipping costs (Cowlitz)
- District operating policies (Thurston)
- Long Range Planning assistance (Adams, Ferry, Thurston, Grays Harbor)
- Citizen complaint investigation (South Yakima)
- Open Government training assistance (all districts)
- Neglect of duty of supervisor
- Regional Managers provided in-person assistance and follow-up with: Skagit, Whidbey Island, Mason, Snohomish, San Juan Islands, Adams, Grays Harbor, Pacific, Whitman, Palouse, North Yakima, Cascadia, King, Clallam, Kitsap, Pierce, Underwood, Central Klickitat, Eastern Klickitat, Foster Creek, Kittitas, Thurston, Ferry, Pomeroy, South Douglas, South Yakima, Okanogan, Grant County, Lewis, Jefferson County, Cowlitz, Wahkiakum, Clark, and Palouse Rock Lake Conservation Districts

### Looking Ahead

- Orientation & Open Government Training of new Supervisors
- District Capacity Building Assistance
- District Operations Issues Resolution Assistance
- CPDS & Project Development
- Sharing of Examples, Templates, Information
- Good Governance District Self Evaluations
- District Supervisor Elections & Appointments

### Cultural Resources:

Larry Brewer facilitated the Commission Work Group on Cultural Resources net meeting and provided the Commission Work Group on Cultural Resources recommendations on policy and procedure to the Commission at their December meeting. The draft policy and support materials to meet the Governor's 0505 Executive Order on cultural resources has been sent to conservation districts for review and comment using a web-based input form (with materials) located at [Cultural Resources Policy](#). Individuals can review documents and offer comments no later than the close of business on Feb 27, 2015. Staff will bring a report of this input and recommendations to the March Commission meeting. For more information contact [Ray Ledgerwood](#)

### Eastern WA Regional Manager Hiring:

On January 16, 2015, the SCC will welcome Mike Baden as the new North Central / North Eastern Regional Manager. Mike comes with 16 years' experience at the Pierce Conservation District, and a year working with the King Conservation District. Mike grew up farming in Eastern Washington and is a graduate from Washington State University. He is excited to come aboard and assist District's with the challenges they face in order to help them be successful and deliver the important programs and resources to cooperators in the voluntary, non-regulatory, and incentive based manner that only Conservation Districts can. A work group evaluated the 17 applications and recommended 7 individuals for a 1<sup>st</sup> interview. Six interviews were conducted in Spokane on November 25 with a team of three supervisors, two managers, and three Commission staff. For more information contact [Ray Ledgerwood](#)

**Regional Manager Areas of Service:**

With the hiring of Mike Baden the districts served by Bill Eller, Ray Ledgerwood and Mike Baden will change with Mike (office in Spokane) providing assistance in the Northeast and North Central areas of the state and Bill Eller (office in Yakima) providing assistance in South Central and Southeast areas. Ray Ledgerwood to provide assistance in Whitman, Asotin, and Pomeroy CDs. For more information contact [Ray Ledgerwood](#)

**Shellfish Projects:**

Butch Ogden, Mark Clark, Bob Amrine, and Stu Trefry gave an update to several staff from Ecology on the Chehalis River Basin Flooding Authority budget request for streambank restoration which led to an offer to take the ECY group on a tour to see projects on the ground that showcases what we are trying to do with this funding. Butch Ogden met with the group working on the Grays Harbor Shoreline Master visioning plan and the Cranberry Growers Association. He also met with Julie Horowitz from the governor's office and several people from WDFW, TNC, WSU extension and the shellfish grower's assoc. This meeting was to look into the idea of working to restore populations of wild Olympic oysters to the Willapa bay. Several good ideas came up for discussion and several reasons why not to try also surfaced. Follow-up meetings with individual shellfish growers were held after the meeting. For more information contact [Butch Ogden](#)

**Chehalis River Basin:**

Butch Ogden gave a presentation at the Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority Meeting on the progress on farm pad implementation this season. Butch also facilitated the Lower Chehalis CRM meeting where Larry Karpack presented the results of his modeling project on the Porter to Satsop reach of the Chehalis River funded by the CRBFA. He showed that even removing the Wakefield road completely will only lower flood flows by less than a ½ foot upstream of the road. The group is now looking for other projects in the area to help with flood reduction. For more information contact [Butch Ogden](#)

**Puget Sound Caucus:**

Shana Joy provided support for a meeting of the Puget Sound Conservation Districts (PSCD) Caucus at the WACD Annual meeting in Cle Elum and provided a meeting summary as follow up. Shana worked with the Puget Sound CD Caucus to edit and finalize a response document and cover letter to the Russell Family Foundation on a stormwater report that they had published in May of this year. She also met with Stephanie Suter of the Puget Sound Partnership and Dave Vogel and discussed the recent activities of the Puget Sound Caucus and how to improve and solidify the relationship between moving forward. The PSCD Caucus met twice in October with a facilitator to iron out and adopt operational procedures, mission and vision statements, values, and a basic list of programmatic priorities and next steps to take. The WSCC has been supportive of this effort to move the PSCD Caucus forward in a positive and more organized manner by providing meeting logistics support and staff time. The progress made has not come about without considerable work and time invested by Caucus member conservation districts' supervisors and staff. The PSCD Caucus hopes to be able to better leverage limited funds as well as existing and new partnerships for a greater impact to improve natural resources in their region. For more information contact [Shana Joy](#)

**Palouse Riparian Management:**

45 Producers and Conservation District supervisors participated in a work session to develop ideas for a riparian management incentive program for Whitman and Spokane Counties. A concept paper is being developed from the working session discussions. For more information contact [Ray Ledgerwood](#)

## **Emergency Management:**

Bill Eller coordinated a meeting of the Disasters and Districts Workgroup. A session was put on at WACD involving a panel of eight different conservation districts – managers, staff, and supervisors were present to talk about their experiences – good and bad – in disasters over the last few years. About 50 folks attended the session, and Bill is working to coordinate the first meeting of a group of attendees willing to serve on a workgroup to move this effort forward. The first meeting will gauge interest, participation, future direction and set up a schedule for further meetings, as necessary (either by webinar or in-person). The first meeting is set to occur in late January, and there is a Doodle poll available for meeting date input here: (<http://doodle.com/z96vg7mh8qd6etwx>). Any willing to lend some time and effort to this topic will be free to attend the 1 hour. On October 14, 2014 the Emergency Management Division (EMD) gave a presentation to the Governor's Cabinet on effect of a Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake. This caused great concern with Cabinet members as they couldn't identify enough trained staff to respond adequately to that disaster. They asked EMD to help them coordinate the augmentation of the emergency operations center staff with trained agency personnel. EMD estimates that, during such a catastrophe, they would need ~1,200 trained state agency FTE's in order to staff the EOC, 24 hours a day for months at a time. EMD is looking to ultimately credential folks in the Incident Command System (using courses 100, 200, 300, 400, 700, 800) and EOC Bill Eller continued work with coordinated bidding and contracting for the EWP with Okanogan trainings (details not finalized yet). EMD is looking for non-essential personnel during a disaster from state agencies to serve in the EOC (financial is most sought-after). More on this as it becomes available. Bill Eller attended, by teleconference, a meeting of Washington State's Emergency Management Council. Ebola continues to be a concern for the State's Emergency Management Division (EMD). Facilities that can effectively treat multiple Ebola patients are not readily available in Washington State, and health care workers are being ostracized by society which puts pressure on them to refrain from volunteering from treating Ebola patients around the world. An overview of the State Preparedness Report was presented. The WSCC was mentioned as one of a number of state agencies that provided input to assist EMD in presenting this report to FEMA. For more information contact [Bill Eller](#)

## **FEMA's Regional Interagency Steering Committee:**

At FEMA's Regional Interagency Steering Committee's meeting Bill Eller presented, along with Craig Nelson from Okanogan CD, Daryl Downing of USACE, Anna Daggett of FEMA, and Gary Urbas of the State Emergency Management Division, a presentation called "Erosion Threat Assessment Reduction Team (ETART): A holistic multi-agency approach to assessing and lessening erosion threats after Central Washington Wildfires presentation." The focus of the presentation was the state and local BAER team that was created immediately after the Carlton Complex fire to assess the fire severity. Bill was able to highlight the Commission's participation in putting that team together – wholly funding 1/3 of the team (9 CD employees) and to explain how the Commission and CDs interact during disaster recovery. For more information contact [Bill Eller](#)

## **Carlton Complex:**

Bill Eller continued work with coordinated bidding and contracting for the EWP with Okanogan CD and NRCS. Due to weather issues, not all landowners who want dikes to be constructed on their property will be able to receive them. Okanogan CD is working with contractors and engineers to take winter weather into account and make a determination of which site dikes can be fully completed under the NRCS EWP contract. We worked to ensure that the bid documents and contractor's contract accurately reflect these changing conditions. The EWP contract has been signed by Roylene / NRCS and received by the Commission. Okanogan CD has been working with cultural resources folks to get the projects ready for contract work. Once the Commission signs it, OCD had 20 days to complete the work on the bundle of projects in this first agreement for 6-8 projects. Bill worked with State and Local BAER and NRCS, Commission and Okanogan CD

staff on multiple teleconferences to coordinate on EWP work and discuss what worked and what didn't with the State and Local BAER team process for the Carlton Complex fire response, and continued work with Okanogan CD and NRCS on EWP implementation, contract review and development. Bill Eller continued to work with Okanogan CD on its efforts related to the fire and flooding events including coordinating with Karla Heinitz on a path forward with NRCS / EWP. He continued to analyze the contracts and agreements necessary for EWP implementation and attended, with Karla, the FEMA PA kickoff reimbursement meeting with FEMA and EMD on the Carlton Complex fire. All Commission expenses that are received from each district that incurred expenses were to be submitted to the Commission so that FEMA reimbursement for up to 75% of those expenses could occur. For more information contact [Bill Eller](#)

#### **North Lynden CRM:**

Ray Ledgerwood facilitated the 2<sup>nd</sup> work session of the North Lynden CRM work group that includes the North Lynden Watershed Improvement District (WID) board members and Lummi Nation natural resource department leaders. The group continued planning for six strategic areas they identified to work on including fish hatcheries, drainage, water quality, fish habitat, agricultural viability, policies. For more information contact [Ray Ledgerwood](#)

#### **CRM Task Group:**

The CRM Task Group met to follow-up on priorities offered by the CRM Executive Committee for project work, MOU signing, funding from members and a letter to Mark Clark from DNR regarding on the ground accomplishments from CRM activities including grazing management. Thirty-one CRM Executive Committee Members, CRM Task Group Members and Guests attended the CRM tour and meeting hosted by the Pacific and Grays Harbor Conservation Districts. The Executive Committee identified potential activities for the CRM Task Group for the upcoming year and natural resource priorities to be addressed. The tour included examples of local people working together to improve natural resources including stops to view shellfish beds, upper watershed work to protect water quality, control invasive species, and improve fish passage. For more information contact [Ray Ledgerwood](#)

#### **Farm Bill Webinars:**

A series of three Farm Bill Webinars were developed and sponsored by NRCS, Conservation Commission, Farm Service Agency, and Risk Management Agency. The first was on "Overview of 2014 Farm Bill" that covered the following topics; Changes to NRCS programs from 2008 to the 2014 Farm Bill, General EQIP sign-up, Changes to FSA programs from 2008-2014 Farm Bill, and Conservation Compliance. 52 participated in the second webinar on the 2014 Farm Bill held November 18<sup>th</sup> on Changes to NRCS Financial Assistance Programs. 40 participated in the November 21<sup>st</sup> on Changes to NRCS Easement Programs. Recordings of the webinar are available on the Commissions Website. For more information contact [Ray Ledgerwood](#)

#### **Supervisor Elections & Appointments:**

Supervisor election and appointment activity is ramping up with processing election and appointment materials as they come in from conservation districts. For more information contact [Bill Eller](#) or [Alicia Johnson](#)

#### **Open Government:**

Stu Trefry, with other WSCC staff, sent the email on Open Government training for district officials, along with a fillable form for recording the supervisors that had received the training to meet the most recent legislation for all newly elected and appointed. More than half of the Supervisors have completed the training. [Link to the Open Government Training Confirmation Form](#). For more information contact [Stu Trefry](#)

**District Capacity Building:**

Stu Trefry, began capacity building work with the Adams, Ferry, and Grays Harbor Conservation Districts on long range plan development and work sessions with the community. For more information contact [Stu Trefry](#)

**Quick Notes for Districts:**

Stu Trefry coordinates with other WSCC staff to prepare a monthly briefing paper called Quick Notes as a quick reference for district managers and chairs to important district operations updates, training and schedule items. For more information contact [Stu Trefry](#)

**Soil Health Campaign**

The Soil Health Campaign leaders met with staff from the WA Grown, Pacific NW Direct Seed Association, NRCS and Conservation Commission to discuss the soil health campaign activities and how the various public outreach campaigns could work together to reach key audiences. Discussion included sharing information on soil health at already planned events or activities that the existing public outreach campaigns are participating in. For additional information contact [Ray Ledgerwood](#)

**Focused Watershed Outreach Project:**

Shana Joy participated in several meetings and discussions regarding the Focused Watershed Outreach project that she is overseeing with three of her region's CDs to kick off the crafting of an implementation strategy as the next phase of the project. She also reviewed revised versions of reports and materials produced by WSU Extension as part of this joint project as well. For more information contact [Shana Joy](#)

**Technical Work Group:**

Larry Brewer and Ray Ledgerwood met with leaders of the District Technical Work Group several times during this reporting period to review progress on the Dairy Nutrient Management and Riparian Management certification programs for conservation district technical employees and work on communications, mentoring and training opportunities. For more information contact [Ray Ledgerwood](#)

**Palouse River CREP Expansion:**

Jennifer Boie, Dan Harwood, and Mike Denny gave a presentation to the Farm Services Agency State Committee regarding a request to extend the area for all CREP practices and program eligibility to include a wider area of the Palouse River Basin. Salmon are restricted from going past Palouse Falls, however the largest water contributor to the Snake River system is the Palouse River Basin. Impacts of cleaner, cooler water to the Snake River system could be enhanced with improvement in riparian management within the Palouse River Basin. For more information contact [Ray Ledgerwood](#)

**Conservation Practice Data System (CPDS) Webinar & Follow-up:**

53 Conservation District and Commission Staff participated in the 10.9.14 webinar on entering conservation project data into the CPDS system, prioritizing the projects using the conservation district generated criteria, and building budget requests from the data. Melisa Vander Linden and Ron Shultz were presenters. Regional managers have been reviewing project data with each conservation district. For more information contact [Melisa Vander Linden](#)

**NASCA Policy Committee on WOTUS:**

Stu Trefry, as a member of the NASCA Policy Committee, helped develop recommendations for the NASCA Board regarding the EPA proposal on Waters of the U. S (WOTUS). For more information contact [Stu Trefry](#)

**NRCS/WSCC TSP Task Orders:**

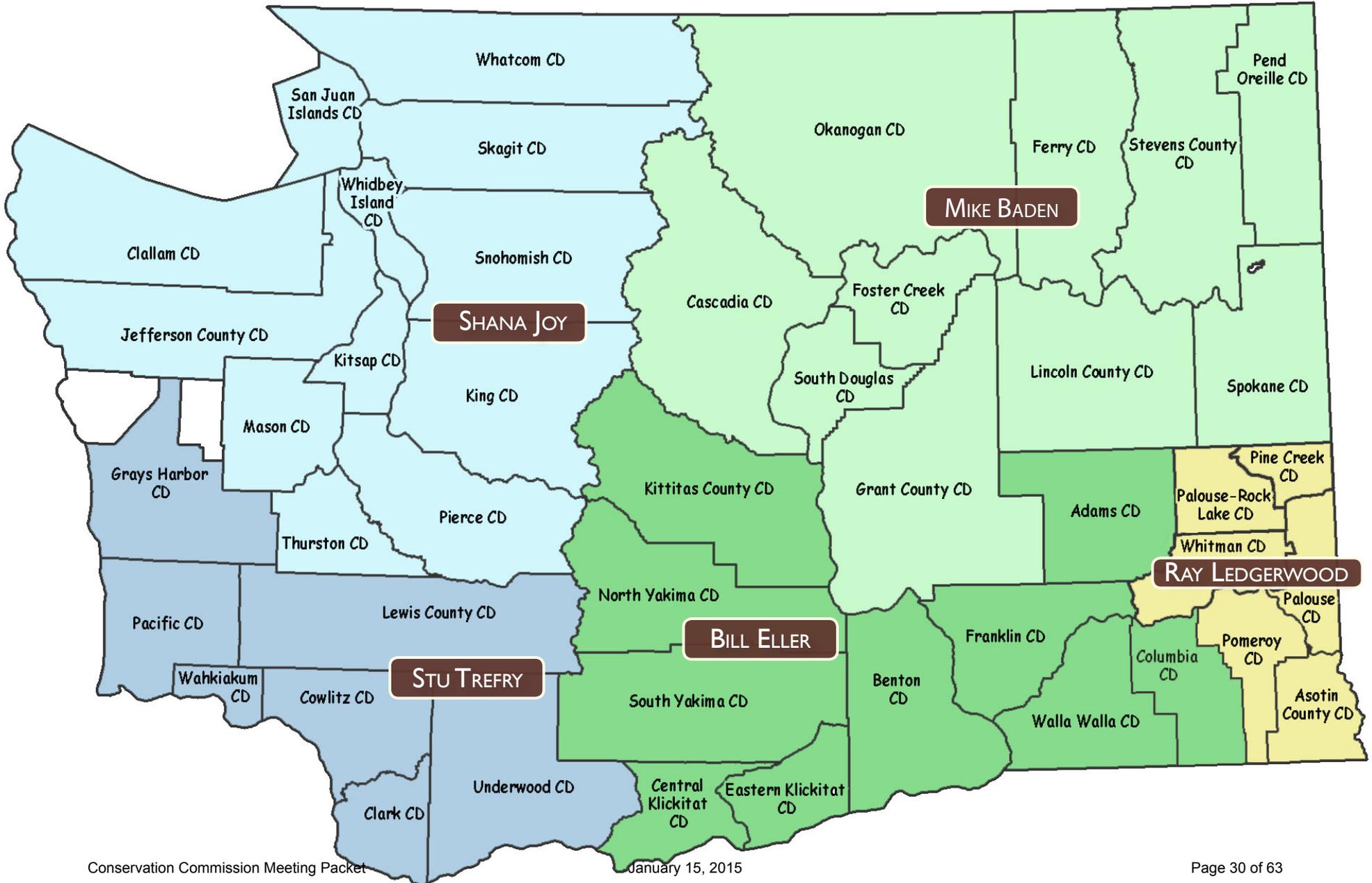
Aquila Bernard, Peter Bautista and Ray Ledgerwood were presenters for a webinar on NRCS/WSCC TSP Task Order development, logistics and procedures for task orders for districts work with NRCS on Farm Bill Conservation Program implementation. For more information contact [Ray Ledgerwood](#)

**WADE/Supervisor Track Coordination:**

Stu Trefry participated on WADE monthly teleconferences and worked with Craig Nelson on coordinating the Supervisor Track for the 2015 WADE Conference. For more information contact [Stu Trefry](#)

# Regional Managers - January 2015

For more information about a Regional Manager, click on their name



# TAB 6

January 9, 2015

**TO:** Conservation Commission Members

**FROM:** Mission Statement Subcommittee  
*(Lynn Bahrych, Dean Longrie, Alan Stromberger, Laura Johnson, and Ray Ledgerwood)*

**SUBJECT:** SCC mission statement revision / CD survey results

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**Summary:**

The Mission Statement Subcommittee requests that Conservation Commission members review and approve a revision to the SCC mission statement and adopt an SCC “purpose” statement, as follows:

*Purpose: To conserve natural resources on private lands through voluntary stewardship.*

*Mission Statement: To work with conservation districts, the Governor’s Office, and partners in engaging landowners in voluntary stewardship.*

**Background:**

The Mission Statement Subcommittee formed at the July 2014 Commission meeting. Following their first meeting, the committee presented a draft mission statement at the Commission meeting in Whatcom on September 18. At that time, fellow Commissioners further revised the mission and requested that the subcommittee send a survey with the following draft mission statement to CDs for feedback:

*Mission: To lead and assist conservation districts and partners in engaging landowners in voluntary stewardship of Washington's natural resources.*

The CD feedback survey closed on December 19. We received 21 responses from both CD staff and supervisors, and the majority of respondents (13) rating the revised mission as accurate.

Feedback/common themes from the surveys included:

- Respondents took issue with saying that the SCC mission is “to lead” conservation districts because leadership is not mentioned in RCW 89.08.
- Some recommended making the mission more concise and inspirational.
- Some respondents offered SCC mission statement revisions:
  - > *To lead and assist conservation districts and partners in engaging landowners in the stewardship of Washington’s natural resources. (removed “voluntary”)*
  - > *To advise and assist conservation districts and partners in engaging landowners in voluntary stewardship of Washington's natural resources. (changed “lead” to “advise”)*
  - > *To conserve natural resources.*
  - > *To lead the citizens of the state in the wise stewardship, conservation, and protection of all of our natural resources.*
  - > *To assist conservation districts and conservation partners with the facilitation of voluntary activities that conserve and enhance Washington's natural resources.*

**Action requested:** Seeking Commission Member approval of revised SCC mission statement and purpose statement.

**Staff Contact:** Laura Johnson, Communication and Outreach Coordinator,  
[ljohnson@scc.wa.gov](mailto:ljohnson@scc.wa.gov).



# WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

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David S. Vogel, Executive Director • [dvogel@wadistricts.org](mailto:dvogel@wadistricts.org)

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January 9, 2015

Mr. Mark Clark  
Executive Director  
Washington State Conservation Commission  
PO Box 47721  
Olympia, WA 98504-7721

Dear Mr. Clark:

On behalf of the Washington Association of Conservation Districts (WACD), thank you again for your participation the 2014 WACD Annual Meeting. At this year's annual meeting business session, conservation district supervisors adopted a number of important WACD resolutions that direct WACD leadership and staff to request assistance from our conservation partners and state and federal agencies. These resolutions involve many aspects of conservation program development, budgeting, delivery and coordination.

Several of our resolutions relate directly (or indirectly) to the Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC). I have enclosed all *passed* 2014 WACD resolutions, together with a table indicating (by color shading) those that apply to WSCC. I am transmitting our resolutions to you as our official request for assistance in meeting the direction of WACD member conservation districts. I am also transmitting resolutions as appropriate to other partners in a similar manner.

WACD appreciates the opportunity to work together with WSCC to take action on our member resolutions, and to continue to improve our level of partnership in putting conservation on the ground in Washington State. As you are aware, many of our 2014 resolutions include important actions to support passage of the state conservation budget for the next biennium, together with approaches to local district funding options, and other legislative action. These are our top priority for coordinated action.

Our resolutions also call for improved collaboration and partnership across and with state agencies, particularly those Commission-member agencies, covering issues such as cultural resources, permits for conservation work, weed control, and grant funding agreements. We look forward to bringing those efforts forward through the public venue of the WSCC.

Please let me know if you have questions or comments about these resolutions, or about how we can best proceed to address them. Please also advise if you have interest in any of the other resolutions not highlighted in the enclosed table.

Mr. Mark Clark  
January 9, 2015  
Page 2

Thank you in advance for your consideration of these important WACD actions on behalf of member conservation districts.

Sincerely,



David S. Vogel  
Executive Director

DSV:dg  
Enclosure

cc: WACD Board of Directors  
Clinton O'Keefe, Chair WSCC

Below are the resolutions that passed at the WACD Annual Conference in December 2014. The highlighted boxes in light teal blue are resolutions relating to the Conservation Commission. The status box indicates the resolutions we would like the Commission to focus on this meeting to respond to the immediate needs for this upcoming budget and legislative session.

<b>2014 WACD Resolutions</b>		
<b>Number</b>	<b>Resolution Title</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>2014-01</b>	Conservation District Long-Term Funding Opportunities	<b>BUDGET</b> <b>Need action January 15, 2015</b>
<b>2014-02</b>	Supporting Full Funding for the Forest, Rangeland Health and Fire Resiliency Program	<b>BUDGET</b> <b>Need action January 15, 2015</b>
<b>2014-03</b>	Supporting Full Funding for the Voluntary Stewardship Program	<b>BUDGET</b> <b>Need action January 15, 2015</b>
<b>2014-04</b>	Support Funding for Natural Resource Programs to Assist the Implementation of our Work	<b>BUDGET</b> <b>Need action January 15, 2015</b>
<b>2014-05</b>	Supporting Conservation Commission Emergency Response Funding	<b>BUDGET</b> <b>Need action January 15, 2015</b>
<b>2014-06</b>	Washington Coast Marine Advisory Council to Include Representative from WACD and WSCC Staff, Adding Two New Seats	<b>LEGISLATIVE</b> <b>Need action January 15, 2015</b>
2014-07	Right to Farm for Shellfish Farmers	
<b>2014-09</b>	Green Stormwater Program	<b>NATURAL RESOURCES</b> <b>Need action January 15, 2015</b>
2014-10	Management Systems	
2014-11	Control of Noxious Weeds on Public & Private Lands	

2014-12	Changes to WA State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) State-Owned Aquatic Land (SOAL) Permitting/License Process	
2014-13	Enabling Conservation on the Ground in a Timely, Efficient Manner Regarding Cultural Resources Review	
2014-14	Requesting Development of Rapid Permitting & Cultural Resources Reviews During Emergencies	
2014-15	District Overhead Operating Expenditures	
2014-16	Ecology Centennial and 319 Grant Funding Agreements Timeliness of Payments	
2014-17	Ecology Centennial and 319 Grant Funding Agreements Termination Due to Insufficient Funds	
<b>2014-18</b>	Encouraging Sustained Conservation District Funding Strategy Through the Rates and Charges Option	<b>LEGISLATIVE</b> <b>Need action January 15, 2015</b>
2014-19	Sales Tax Exemption Incentive	



**Resolution No. 2014-01**

**Title:** Conservation District Long-Term Funding Opportunities

**Problem:**

The 2013 WACD Annual Meeting produced a resolution directing WACD to work together with the State Conservation Commission to develop a campaign for long-term conservation funding, and to report progress at the 2014 WACD Annual Meeting. In September 2014, three conservation districts requested that WACD undertake legislative action that allows an increase in the statutory cap for district local assessments or rates and charges as authorized under RCW 89.08.400.

WACD's top priority for the 2015 legislative session is to advocate for passage of the state biennial budget package for conservation districts and the State Conservation Commission. Because WACD believes that action on assessments or rates and charges at this time may pose serious jeopardy to successful passage of the requested biennial budget, WACD intends to act on long-term funding options in the interim and during the 2016 session once the state biennial budget is in place, and as other budget opportunities may present themselves.

WACD is committed to taking legislative and stakeholder action in a manner that improves opportunities *for all conservation districts* to secure needed local funding to supplement state appropriations and other sources. To-date, the request to act on assessments or rates and charges has not been adequately vetted by WACD membership, nor supported by leadership from local county governments, agricultural stakeholders, and others whose interests may be impacted by local funding issues.

**Recommendation:**

WACD shall work with the Legislature and the State Conservation Commission to incorporate greater opportunity for all conservation districts to participate in conservation district local assessments or rates and charges as authorized under RCW 89.08.400. WACD shall include, as appropriate, adjustment to the amount(s) and duration associated with assessments or rates and charges as part of a campaign strategy for long-term funding for conservation districts and the State Conservation Commission. WACD shall lay groundwork with stakeholders in the interim, following passage of the state biennial budget, and shall pursue long-term funding opportunities during the 2016 legislative session. WACD shall involve all conservation districts in development of required stakeholder support. WACD shall report on progress and proposed legislative action at the 2015 WACD Annual Meeting.

**Presented by:** WACD Executive Committee

Assigned To: Legislative Committee

Recommend DO PASS by the Legislative Committee

Resolution passed



**Resolution No. 2014-02**

**Title:** Supporting Full Funding for the Forest, Rangeland Health and Fire Resiliency Program

**Problem:**

During the last several decades wildland fires have burned thousands of acres state-wide. 2014 has been the worst fire season in state history. Costs associated with ongoing fire resource deployment, state fire mobilization, and destruction of valuable natural resource lands and associated critical habitat, as well as losses to homes and state and local infrastructure, has resulted in one of the costliest fire seasons on record.

Thousands of acres of our state's private forests are dead or dying due to the lack of technical and financial resources necessary to address issues such as infestations of pests including pine beetle. Thousands more acres are in unhealthy conditions due to overstocking and noxious weed infestations. This creates not only an extreme fire danger, but has resulted in the loss of thousands of acres of what was merchantable timber and the associated hundreds of jobs that a robust timber industry provides.

Thousands of acres of our state's range lands are infested with invasive species. This, too, serves as fuel for wildfire, and also creates decreased productivity of grazing lands with a resulting economic loss to the state cattle industry as well as the jobs associated with that industry. Cattle deaths due to fires of 2014 to date are estimated at 1000, with a conservative lost value of over a million dollars in current and opportunity revenue.

Thousands of homes have been constructed in the wildland urban interface – in the path of wildfire. Lack of defensible space and no ability to complete fuel reductions projects puts property – commercial and residential – at risk, as well as increasing greatly the threat to public and firefighter safety. As of August 2014, over 300 family homes had been lost to wildfire, with an estimated value of \$28 million. It is estimated that 45% of these were uninsured losses.

Privately held forest and range lands link to create a critical mosaic interaction zone which supports the vast majority of ESA listed species in Washington State. Unhealthy and burned riparian areas limit the habitat for pacific salmon. In 2012, 92,000 acres of critical ESA listed sage grouse habitat was destroyed by fire, and has yet to recover. Burned lands in poor ecosystem health are more vulnerable to flash flooding events and severe erosion – choking our waterways with silt and debris which results in additional critical salmon habitat degradation as well as additional private and state infrastructure economic loss.

It has been demonstrated that healthy landscapes, as well as prepared communities, are more resilient and survivable to wildfire. The cost of stewardship planning, best management practice implementation, and wildfire prevention is considerably less than the immediate and



WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

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**Resolution No. 2014-02 (continued)**

future costs of suppression (usually on a 1:10 ratio), economic losses, and long term ecosystem recovery.

Conservation districts currently have the knowledge, skills and abilities to bring a diverse group of people together to address these natural resource and community issues at the local level utilizing a voluntary incentive based approach. Lack of funding, however, has impeded progress.

The Conservation Commission has submitted a capital budget request for \$3,080,000 to fund the continuation and acceleration of these efforts across a greater landscape scale to maximize the desired outcomes of healthier and more productive landscapes and more fire resilient communities.

This resolution further acknowledges and supports priorities established for core funding for conservation districts and the Conservation Commission as established in the 2015-17 biennial budget request, or as later adapted by WACD during the 2015 legislative session.

Good management efforts will not only save money, they will protect lives, structures, landscapes, and livelihoods.

**Recommendation:**

WACD support funding for the Forest, Rangeland Health and Fire Resiliency Program.

WACD support is conditioned upon the funding being new money that does not impact core funding for conservation districts or the Conservation Commission included in the 2015-17 biennial budget request.

This resolution further acknowledges and supports priorities established for core funding for conservation districts and the Conservation Commission as established in the 2015-17 biennial budget request, or as later adapted by WACD during the 2015 legislative session.

WACD work with the Conservation Commission and stakeholders to advance this position with the Governor during his budget development, and with the Legislature in the 2015 legislative session.

WACD communicate this position to the Governor and legislators.

**Presented by:** Kittitas County Conservation District

Assigned To: Legislative Committee

Recommend DO PASS AS AMENDED by the Legislative Committee

Resolution passed as amended



**Resolution No: 2014-03**

**Title:** Supporting Full Funding for the Voluntary Stewardship Program

**Problem:**

Agriculture is not exempt from the requirements of the Growth Management Act (GMA). This fact causes concern among many in the agricultural community that there will be increased regulation on agriculture to protect critical areas. To address this concern, agricultural leaders met with environmental groups and representatives of counties to negotiate a resolution. Discussions started in 2007 and in 2010 they produced the Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP).

Passed into law by the legislature, the VSP is an alternative approach within GMA to addressing agricultural activities impacting critical areas. The VSP relies on existing voluntary, incentive-based programs to address these issues. There are 28 counties opting-in to the VSP. These counties are not required to implement VSP unless funding is provided. Due to the budget situation at the state funding for the planning phase of VSP has not been made available for the counties, except for two – Thurston and Chelan.

Under the statute, conservation districts may be the lead for organizing the VSP work group under VSP, and/or may be the lead for outreach to landowners. The decision on these roles is to be made by the county commissioners.

On August 1, 2015 the Conservation Commission is to certify to the state legislature and governor those counties receiving adequate funding to implement VSP. Counties without any funding by that date will be removed from the VSP and will have to return to the traditional GMA planning process. This will lead to potentially increased regulation of agriculture and litigation. We are already seeing litigation in a non-VSP county – Island – where the county GMA ordinance was successfully challenged as not being restrictive enough on agriculture.

The Conservation Commission has submitted a capital budget request for \$7,660,000 to fully fund the planning phase of VSP implementation. This proposal was made as a placeholder for pro-VSP stakeholder groups to continue to work with the Governor and legislature on funding. It's critical that these funds DO NOT come from other core conservation district funded activities included in at the Commission's 2015-17 biennial budget request.

**Recommendation:**

WACD support the full funding for the planning phase for implementation of VSP.

WACD support is conditioned upon the funding being new money that does not impact core funding for conservation districts or the Conservation Commission included in the 2015-17 biennial budget request.

This resolution further acknowledges and supports priorities established for core funding for conservation districts and the Conservation Commission as established in the 2015-17 biennial budget request, or as later adapted by WACD during the 2015 legislative session.

WACD work with the Conservation Commission and VSP stakeholders to advance this position with the Governor during his budget development, and with the Legislature in the 2015 legislative session.



WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

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**Resolution No: 2014-03 (continued)**

WACD communicate this position to the Governor and legislators.

WACD also supports similar critical areas implementation work by districts not included in VSP.

**Presented by:** Skagit Conservation District

Assigned To: Legislative Committee

Recommend DO PASS AS AMENDED by the Legislative Committee

Resolution passed as amended



WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

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**Resolution No. 2014-04**

**Title:** Support funding for natural resource programs to assist the implementation of our work.

**Problem:**

Conservation districts rely on a diversity of partnerships and funding to implement projects that protect and improve the health of the natural resources in our state. Conservation Commission funding and in some cases rates/charges or assessments are not enough resources alone to implement projects at scale or with significant meaning and thus districts rely on many other funding sources to accomplish important projects.

Programs and funding levels administered through key partner agencies are key to districts advancing our priorities.

**Recommendation:**

WACD shall work with the Legislature, Washington Conservation Commission, Conservation Districts, and other natural resource agencies to build and support the state natural resources operating and capital budget.

This resolution further acknowledges and supports priorities established for core funding for conservation districts and the Conservation Commission as established in the 2015-17 biennial budget request, or as later adapted by WACD during the 2015 legislative session.

**Presented by:** Pierce Conservation District

Assigned To: Legislative Committee

Recommend DO PASS AS AMENDED by the Legislative Committee

Resolution passed as amended



WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

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**Resolution No. 2014-05**

**Title:** Supporting Conservation Commission Emergency Response Funding

**Problem:**

During and immediately following natural disasters, conservation districts are often ideally situated to provide critical assistance to landowners. Districts can be called upon to assist with public education and outreach during the emergency and participating in or even coordinating restoration efforts.

Districts need funding to draw from to fund staff and provide other resources that are critical to emergency response and recovery. Drawing from Conservation Commission Implementation grants or other restoration grant programs that are typically already tied to other projects is not always practical or possible.

**Recommendation:**

WACD form a task force with their partners to determine the feasibility of long term funding for emergency natural disasters and to promote districts emergency response abilities.

**Presented by:** Okanogan Conservation District

Assigned To: Legislative Committee

Recommend DO PASS by the Legislative Committee

Resolution Passed



WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

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**Resolution No. 2014-06**

**Title:** Washington Coast Marine Advisory Council to include representative from WACD and WSCC Staff, adding two new seats.

**Problem:**

In the creation of the Washington Coast Marine Advisory Council natural resource agencies were included in the formation of the council, however WACD and WSCC were excluded in seating. When dealing with natural resource issues, WACD and WSCC are leaders in solving problems and need to be at the table that represents ¼ of Washington State.

Other agencies that already have seating on the council also are on the Conservation Commission and should not be double up, therefor the WSCC seat should be represented by WSCC staff.

When a similar resource group was created by the office of the Governor, the Marine Resource Advisory Council (MRAC), this problem did not occur.

**Recommendation:**

WACD and the Washington State Conservation Commission to work with the Washington State Legislature and the Governor's office to add two seats, one WACD and one WSCC Staff, on the WCMAC.

**Presented by:** Pacific Conservation District

Assigned To: Legislative Committee

Recommend DO PASS by the Legislative Committee

Resolution passed



**Resolution No. 2014-07**

**Title:** Right to Farm for Shellfish Farmers

**Problem:**

Shellfish growers are not currently protected under the Right to Farm legislation, which leaves shellfish producers vulnerable to complaints or lawsuits against farm production. These complaints might be smell, lights at night, sound of on-land production, or stopping of access on privately owned shellfish beds. Shellfish farmers, as well as any other farming, have the right to continue farming even though new pressures by urbanization try to constrict their ability to run a farm. Although Shellfish is mentioned in the Right to Farm, shellfish farmers fall short on having the same rights as “traditional” agricultural activities.

**Recommendation:**

WACD work with WSCC to support Right to Farm legislation for all agricultural activities, which includes shellfish aquaculture.

**Presented by:** Pacific Conservation District

Assigned To: Legislative Committee

Recommend DO PASS AS AMENDED by the Legislative Committee

Resolution passed as amended



WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

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**Resolution No. 2014-09**

**Title:** Green Stormwater Program

**Problem:**

Stormwater is a critical state-wide issue that needs to be addressed, and Conservation Districts are uniquely situated to work with private landowners and local governments to address this resource concern. In order to achieve positive change in a cost-effective way, Conservation Districts need to increase their collaborative approaches and strategies to address stormwater and to have a collective positive impact on water quality and water quantity in this state.

**Recommendation:**

WACD shall work with the legislature, Washington Conservation Commission, Department of Ecology, counties, and cities on the development of a stormwater program for private landowner projects implemented by conservation districts to assist jurisdictions in meeting their obligations. This includes work on common strategies to address engineering, design, and funding to support technical assistance needs that leverage existing collaborative approaches.

WACD shall also support legislative action to increase the funding for the implementation of conservation district stormwater projects.

**Presented by:** Clark Conservation District

Assigned To: Natural Resources Policy Committee

Recommend DO PASS by the Natural Resources Policy Committee

Resolution passed



WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

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**Resolution No. 2014-10**

**Title:** Management Systems

**Problem**

When developing a farm plan, single-pass or two-pass conservation systems do not always solve all soil and climate issues or erosion in all areas of the state.

**Recommendation:** WACD supports all site-specific, voluntary conservation tillage systems that protect natural resources.

**Presented by:** Lincoln County Conservation District

Assigned To: Natural Resources Policy Committee

Recommend DO PASS AS AMENDED by the Natural Resources Policy Committee

Resolution passed as amended



WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

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**Resolution No. 2014-11**

**Title:** Control of noxious weeds on public and private lands

**Problem:**

Aggressive non-native invasive plants listed as noxious weeds by the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board are altering habitat in Washington State. For example, *Zostera japonica* is converting thousands of acres of natural habitat, and damaging public and private lands. Uncontrolled, noxious weeds displace other species and degrade opportunity for public and private land management and uses.

**Recommendation:**

WACD and the Washington State Conservation Commission support the control of all noxious weeds listed by the Washington State Noxious Weed Board on public and private lands.

**Presented by:** Pacific Conservation District

Assigned To: Natural Resources Policy Committee

Recommend DO PASS, as amended by the Natural Resources Policy Committee.

Resolution passed as amended



WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

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**Resolution No. 2014-12**

**Title:** Changes to Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) State Owned Aquatic Land (SOAL) permitting/license process.

**Problem:**

Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) requires a Conservation License in lieu of the previous right of entry, easement or lease requirement for a salmon habitat restoration project occurring within waters of the State, below the Ordinary High Water Line. Although it is the obligation of DNR to evaluate and authorize activities under their jurisdiction, several aspects of the permit process and conditions placed on permittees are problematic and challenging for projects undertaken by and for public entities. Unexpected costs and requirements add not only budget concerns but also potential interference with narrow implementation windows and grant timelines. Specific examples include fee requirements, required maintenance, term length and required assurances.

Many projects sponsored by Conservation Districts provide natural resource benefits to the citizens of the State, in addition to any benefit to an individual landowner or entity. Improvements on or associated with public land generally become the property of the State or other public entity at the conclusion of the project. Therefore, the appropriate mechanism for authorization as well as the justification for fees should be reviewed. A recent permit issued to Cascadia Conservation District required a \$900 permit fee. Such fees are waived by other Washington State agencies for local government permit holders; for example, Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife's right of entry fee was waived for the same project.

An additional difficulty is presented when arbitrary terms are imposed for maintenance and monitoring activities. While it is important to ensure that projects are functioning as intended and that risks to the public are minimized, many funding contracts are limited in both duration and budget. Conservation Districts may have little funding, if any, to conduct these activities outside the implementation of the project. If the project is professionally engineered and constructed to specifications, the risk and liability to public property should already be minimized. Observation, monitoring, adaptive management planning and maintenance activities should be specific and limited in scope and duration to match the project goals, available funding and the requirements of other permits for the same project

**Recommendation:**

WACD and the Conservation Commission should work with DNR and other permitting agencies to develop appropriate modifications to the permit process for projects sponsored by and for public entities, particularly where there is public benefit, and support legislative action as needed to effect the changes. This group should pursue the reduction or elimination of the permit fee for public entities. Modifications to the maintenance component may include the creation of a work group made up of appropriate representatives, rather than limited to DNR staff, to review installed projects and agree upon any maintenance activities or adaptive management proposals that may be needed. Further, the defined period for monitoring and/or maintenance to habitat or other resource improvement structures and projects should be consistent and supported by available funding.



WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

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**Resolution No. 2014-12 (continued)**

**Presented by:** Cascadia Conservation District

Assigned To: District Operations & Education Committee

Recommend DO PASS by the District Operations & Education Committee

Resolution passed



**Resolution No. 2014-13**

**Title:** Enabling conservation on the ground in a timely, efficient manner regarding cultural resources review.

**Problem:**

Under GEO 05-05, state funded capital projects must undergo cultural resource review prior to implementation. For most larger project work which requires planning and permitting, the timeline required for cultural resources review is feasible, and most conservation districts have procedures in place to accommodate this level of cultural resources review.

However, a unique benefit to working with conservation districts is that they are currently able to respond quickly to pressing natural resource needs such as livestock exclusion or range fence repair, or planting in areas that are susceptible to erosion. The timeline required for cultural resources review as outlined in the initially proposed WSCC policy on this topic will greatly slow the responsiveness that conservation districts provide and reduce or eliminate the incentive for private landowners to work with districts on small-scale projects. Not only is there a built-in review period (30 days) for DAHP and tribal review of EZ-1 forms, as well as another review period (30 days) if cultural resource surveys are required, but there will be a likely bottleneck at the point of WSCC staff who are tasked with reviewing and processing the EZ-1 forms for each project throughout the state. The workload and time required for this will be overwhelming for WSCC staff and frustrating for districts, cooperators and landowners who want to accomplish conservation work.

Private landowners will likely be much less willing to work voluntarily with conservation districts under this policy. Conservation districts depend on volunteer landowners to accomplish our work, and this policy will provide a reason not to work with districts. In addition, being non-regulatory, conservation district staff should not be put in the position of representing DAHP and the rules and regulations in place surrounding cultural resources. Many district staff have not been trained on cultural resources and the legal ramifications for private property owners of discovering a historic or pre-historic artifact or site on private property. Justifiably, private landowners have many questions, and district staff are not prepared to answer them accurately, let alone present information in a persuasive light to convince landowners to proceed with a project that will include cultural resources review. Districts need support from WACD, DAHP and WSCC to provide accurate information that is tailored for private landowners' unique concerns. The result of GEO 05-05 and WSCC's proposed policy is that landowners will be much less likely to work with districts and our ability conduct our work effectively will be greatly diminished.



**Resolution No. 2014-13 (continued)**

**Recommendation:**

WACD should support a task force or similar effort involving statewide representatives of district staff and supervisors negotiating with WSCC, DAHP, and willing tribes to find solutions that will allow districts to successfully respond to conservation needs in a timely manner while still protecting cultural resources. Solutions may involve the following:

- Programmatic exemption for certain accepted best management practices that are minimally ground disturbing, such as planting of tree seedlings, hand-pulling weeds, and installing fence posts.
- Streamlined review of certain accepted best management practices that are minimally ground disturbing (similar to WDFW’s Habitat Enhancement streamlined review for Hydraulic Project Approvals).
- Develop a procedure where districts can access archaeological and historic data and map information in order to pre-assess the likelihood of cultural resources being present on a project site (currently available, but little known and technically challenging due to the sensitivity of data).
- Depending on likelihood of cultural resources being present on a project site, programmatic allowance of certain ground-disturbing activities as long as the project sponsor implements a monitoring program to identify cultural resource disturbance and an inadvertent discovery plan that lays out appropriate procedures in case a cultural resource is inadvertently disturbed during project implementation.

Furthermore, the term “ground disturbing activities” needs to be more clearly defined. This term can be interpreted variably, and will only lead to confusion and misinterpretation if not further defined. The term can be especially problematic when working on previously disturbed ground or repairing existing practices.

Finally, WACD should work with DAHP to develop accurate and concise information for landowners explaining the origins and ramifications of GEO 05-05. Conservation district staff need accurate information to help landowners understand how this process works and to help persuade cooperators to partner with districts on ground-disturbing projects.

**Presented by:** Underwood Conservation District

Assigned To: District Operations & Education Committee

Recommend DO PASS by the District Operations & Education Committee

Resolution passed



**Resolution No. 2014-14**

**Title:** Requesting Development of Rapid Permitting and Cultural Resources Reviews During Emergencies

**Problem:**

During the immediate response to the Carlton Complex fires, landowners began removing debris from streams to prevent culverts from plugging up, there was a need to install emergency response rain gages and temporary flood diversion dikes.

In some cases work was allowed to be done by notifying permitting agencies, while others have waited days, weeks, and now months for implementation because of a need to secure necessary permits and/or cultural resource evaluations.

Meanwhile, homes and lives are put at potential risk due to the lack of these structures, severe weather reporting platforms, and other activities not being installed or completed.

**Recommendation:**

WACD support the development of statewide permit streamlining or even forgiveness where an emergency has been declared by the Governor and human lives and/or homes are at risk.

**Presented by:** Okanogan Conservation District

Assigned To: District Operations & Education Committee

Recommend DO PASS by the District Operations & Education Committee

Resolution passed



**Resolution No. 2014-15**

**Title:** District Overhead Operating Expenditures

**Problem:**

Over the past couple of years, many districts that were co-located with NRCS have been forced to move out into their own offices.

The increase of costs to operate and maintain a district office are tremendous. Many districts are now having to pay rent and other costs associated with having your own office, rather than do on the ground projects.

Even though our overhead operating expenditures have increased, the district's ability to cover these costs has not. Granting agencies are decreasing the amount they allow for overhead. Some districts may be forced to shut their doors due to increased operating costs. Some districts are in counties that will not support assessments.

**Recommendation:**

A request to WACD to identify districts with emergency rental challenges and create a dialogue with the WSCC and NRCS to resolve those issues.

**Presented by:** Foster Creek Conservation District

Assigned To: District Operations & Education Committee

Recommend DO PASS by the District Operations & Education Committee

Resolution passed



WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

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**Resolution No. 2014-16**

**Title:** Ecology Centennial and 319 Grant Funding Agreements Timeliness of Payments

**Problem:**

The Centennial Clean Water and 319 Grant Funding Agreements (agreements) currently contain no language that reimbursable payments will be made to a RECIPIENT in a timely manner if the documentation is in order.

Washington State Department of Ecology will not negotiate boiler plate contract language with individual RECIPIENTS.

Many Conservation Districts receiving the grants need timely payment to be financially stable and to maintain the trust of local cooperators.

There are specific deadlines for RECIPIENTS to make reimbursements and submit payment requests.

Some, but not all, Conservation Districts have a long history of waiting 60 to 90 days or occasionally as much as 120 days for reimbursement or notification there is an inaccuracy in a payment request.

**Recommendation:**

WACD and/or Conservation Commission request Washington State Department of Ecology to allow them to participate in the development and review of boiler plate language for grant funding agreements specifying reasonable, uniform timelines for either payment or notification of problems with the documentation.

If this coordination effort is unsuccessful, WACD should document both lack of uniformity and excessive delays in payment so that a successful effort may be launched in the future.

**Presented by:** Stevens County Conservation District

Assigned To: District Operations & Education Committee

Recommend DO Pass by the District Operations & Education Committee

Resolution passed



WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

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**Resolution No. 2014-17**

**Title:** Ecology Centennial and 319 Grant Funding Agreements Termination Due to Insufficient Funds

**Problem:**

The Centennial Clean Water and 319 Grant Funding Agreements (agreements) currently contain no protection for the RECIPIENT for termination or modification due to insufficient funds.

New language added to 2014 agreements allows Ecology to terminate at any time with no notification and no assurance of reimbursement of any incurred expenses.

- A. ECOLOGY's ability to make payments is contingent on availability of funding. In the event funding from state, federal, or other sources is withdrawn, reduced, or limited in any way after the effective date and prior to completion or expiration date of this agreement, ECOLOGY, at its sole discretion, may elect to terminate the agreement, in whole or part, or renegotiate the agreement, subject to new funding limitations or conditions. ECOLOGY may also elect to suspend performance of the agreement until ECOLOGY determines the funding insufficiency is resolved. ECOLOGY may exercise any of these options with no notification restrictions.

**Recommendation:**

WACD and/or Conservation Commission request Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) to allow them to participate in the development and review of boiler plate language for grant funding agreements allowing some minimal protections for the RECIPIENT.

Such language should at a minimum require electronic notification of termination even if effective upon Ecology's send time and date.

WACD and/or Conservation Commission coordinate collective negotiation of grant agreements for the districts concerning boilerplate language and legal standards.

**Presented by:** Stevens County Conservation District

Assigned To: District Operations & Education Committee

Recommend DO PASS AS AMENDED by the District Operations & Education Committee

Resolution passed as amended



WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

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**Resolution No. 2014-18**

**Title:** Encouraging Sustained Conservation District Funding Strategy through the Rates and Charges Option

**Problem Statement:**

For the past several years a WACD priority focus has been to develop long term stable funding for conservation districts. WACD worked with conservation districts in the 2012 legislature to implement a Rates and Charges local funding option for districts. Fifteen districts have taken advantage of local funding options and have implemented some form of Assessment or Rates & Charges funding. WACD believes that the Rates & Charges approach offers significant advantages for conservation districts and appears to be more acceptable to local supporting governments. WACD believes that further steps need to be taken to encourage districts and their local governments to implement the Rates and Charges option where districts seek local funding.

**Recommendation:**

WACD shall work with the WSCC to assist conservation districts in implementing local long term funding opportunities using the Rates & Charges approach. That assistance shall include development of a procedural outline, and shall include technical advice and support from WACD and WSCC to assist interested conservation districts with mentoring from districts who successfully implement the Rates and Charges option.

**Presented by:** WACD Legislative Committee

Recommend DO PASS by the Legislative Committee

Resolution passed



**Resolution No. 2014-19**

**Title:** Sales Tax Exemption Incentive

**Problem:**

There are still several million acres of farm ground in Washington State that are losing topsoil to wind and water erosion at an alarming rate. Windstorms in the Columbia Basin region of Eastern Washington during the summer of 2014 once again brought the issue of wind erosion to the attention of the citizens as a large windstorm picked up topsoil from unprotected farm fields and created a huge dust storm that closed highways, caused traffic accidents and carried away precious topsoil. Water caused erosion on the Palouse was typically severe in 2013 and 2014 with millions of tons of topsoil leaving farm fields and choking roadside ditches, creeks, streams and rivers. As topsoil leaves the farm, the resulting environmental damage is eclipsed only by the permanent loss of future production capacity. Technology that virtually eliminates soil erosion from any cause is available to farmers. No-till and direct seeding maintain constant vegetative cover on the soil, eliminating erosion and runoff while reducing the number of trips over a field, reducing fuel usage while maintaining or increasing yields by preventing the loss of moisture.

While the technology of no-till and direct seeding are widely available, the expense of replacing current farming implements with new drills, tractors and precision farming components is expensive and is a substantial barrier to full adoption of the technology. The loss of the sales and use tax exemption on farm equipment in Washington State further exacerbates the problem. A reinstatement of the sales and use tax on purchases of implements and precision farming technology used in no-till/direct seed systems that are certified through the "*Farmed Smart Certification*"\* process would serve as a strong financial incentive to farmers to transition to direct seed and no-till. Water and air quality issues along with the reduction of future production capacity would be addressed through this incentive by the elimination of erosion and the subsequent negative environmental effects.

**Recommendation:**

WACD will support the Pacific Northwest Direct Seed Association and other Agriculture groups in their efforts to reinstate certain sales and use tax incentives on farm equipment used in the implementation of conservation practices.

**Presented by:** Spokane Conservation District

Recommend DO NOT PASS by the Legislative Committee.

Legislative Committee Chair brought resolution back to the floor, to consider amendment moved by Spokane Conservation District.

Recommend DO PASS AS AMENDED from the floor

Resolution passed as amended from the floor

**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)*

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

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

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**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.<sup>1</sup>

## **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.

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE COMMISSION**  
**WASHINGTON STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

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GENERAL TOPIC: **Officers and Executive Committee of the Commission**

APPROVED: By the Commissioners at Commission Meeting      DATE ISSUED: May 19, 2005

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**PURPOSE**

This policy is to create an Executive Committee so that it expands the number of officers within the Commission beyond the Chairperson in RCW 89.08.050.

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...

**POLICY**

The chairperson, vice chairperson, past chairperson and one at-large agency position will collectively be called the Executive Committee of the Commission. The responsibilities of the Executive Committee will be assigned by the chairperson and/or the Commission collectively.

**PROCEDURE**

The officers of the Commission shall consist of the chairperson, vice chairperson, past chairperson, and one at-large agency position.

The chairperson and the vice chairperson will be elected according to the WSSC Policy No. 05-02.

The past chairperson position will be filled by the immediate outgoing chairperson.



The Conservation Commission Office is pleased to announce the hiring of two new staff members!

**FINANCIAL**

On January 5, 2015, the SCC welcomed Sarah Groth. Sarah comes from the Department of Enterprise Services-Small Agency Financial Services division. Sarah brings a wealth of state accounting knowledge, travel rules and regulations, training coordination expertise, and provided liaison services between small agencies and the State Auditor's office. In addition to her public sector experience, she has provided accounting services for non-profit and private sector employers. She is excited to return to a small agency environment and broaden her involvement in agency budgeting and developing training opportunities.

**EASTERN REGIONAL MANAGER**

On January 16, 2015, the SCC will welcome Mike Baden as the new Eastern Regional Manager. Mike comes from 16 years experience at the Pierce Conservation District, and a year working with the King Conservation District. Mike grew up farming in Eastern Washington and is a graduate from Washington State University. He is excited to come aboard and assisting district's with the challenges they face in order to help them be successful and deliver the important programs and resources to cooperators in the voluntary, non-regulatory, and incentive based manner that only Conservation Districts can.