

**APPROVED AT THE JANUARY 15, 2015 REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING**

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 billion 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 Cochran, 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.**