

Approved March 15, 2018



Washington State Conservation Commission Regular Business Meeting
Chehalis, Washington
January 18, 2018

The Washington State Conservation Commission (Commission/SCC) met in regular session on January 18, 2018, in Chehalis, Washington. Chairman Kropf called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Jim Kropf, Chairman
Dean Longrie, Vice-chairman, West Region
Larry Cochran, Eastern Region
Harold Crose, Central Region
Daryl Williams, Governor Appointed Member
Sarah Spaeth, Governor Appointed Member
Kelly Susewind, Dept. of Ecology (DOE)
Perry Beale, Dept. of Agriculture
Mark Craven on behalf of President WA
Association of Conservation Districts (WACD)

COMMISSION STAFF PRESENT

Mark Clark, Executive Director
Ray Ledgerwood, District Operations Manager
Ron Shultz, Policy Director
Eleanor Dovey, Fiscal Manager
Lori Gonzalez, Executive Assistant
Laura Johnson, Communications Coordinator
Shana Joy, Puget Sound Regional Manager
Stu Trefry, Northwest Regional Manager
Brian Cochrane, Habitat Monitoring Coordinator

PARTNERS AT THE TABLE REPRESENTED AT THIS MEETING

Nick Vira, Natural Resource Conservation Service on behalf of State Conservationist, Roylene Rides at the Door
Michael Kuttel, Jr., WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife

GUESTS ATTENDED

Robin McPherson, SCC's Assistant Attorney General (AAG), David Rose, NRCS, Bob Amrine, Lewis CD, Kelly Verd, Lewis CD, Nikki, Lewis CD, Marguerite, Lewis CD, Denise Smee, Clark CD, Doug Rushton, Thurston CD, Sarah Moorehead, Thurston CD, Ryan Bay, WACD, and, Patricia Hickey, WACD.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Commissioner Longrie to approve the November 30, 2017 draft meeting minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Cochran. Motion passed.

Director Clark presented members with a travel request for approval to attend the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) Legislative Fly-in, March 20, 2018. Mr. Clark and other Washington conservation leaders will join together and meet with our WA State congressional delegation in Washington D.C.

Motion by Commissioner Longrie to approve the Executive Director and Chair or Vice-chairman to attend the Spring NACD Legislative Fly-in, March 20, 2018 in Washington D.C., dependent on available funds. Seconded by Mark Craven (sitting on behalf of WACD President, Tom Miller). Motion passed.

The Commission went into Executive Session per [RCW 42.30.110 \(1\)\(i\)](#), to discuss with legal counsel representing the agency potential litigation at 10:50 a.m. and returned into regular session at 11:50 a.m.

BUDGET

Fiscal Manager, Eleanor Dovey provided an update on the agency finances and funds that have been allocated to districts to date. The information is also provided in the January meeting packet.

At the November 2017 Commission meeting, Commissioner Longrie requested the history of districts who have returned funds. \$1 million dollars was unused at the end of the 2015 biennia. The finance team and the regional managers worked together to identify a listing of causes to follow up and provided a list of concepts to members. The information can be found on page 26 of the January meeting packets. The metrics show 12 districts sent more than \$50K at the end of fiscal year 2015. The figures dropped to \$7K by end of the 2017 biennium. Ms. Dovey noted there were, however, four districts who returned funding twice in a row. SCC regional managers will work with those districts. This was also mentioned as a Conservation Accountability and Performance Program (CAPP) related item. Mr. Clark commented good reporting and communication before the end of a biennium is important. Funds could have been disbursed quickly for projects that could have been done in a short timeframe.

After reviewing the information provided, Commissioner Beale said it was disheartening to see funds returned. He would like to see more interest in changing cost share. Noted if you have a big project needing to go in the ground, the amount of money needed from a landowner quickly can often be problematic. SCC staff, Ray Ledgerwood responded, cost share is set at every district.

Question was asked if there was any correlation with other districts on where we have the most problems. Mr. Ledgerwood responded, there is with permitting projects.

Commissioner Crose has worked with multiple projects and processes in the past, and noted from experience, a lot could be avoided if you have important conversations up front -1) expectations with the landowner is set, and 2) We should have a clear understanding there is a point in time where you identify whether the landowner is really in or out.

Mr. Clark wanted the board to be aware of the current processes and issues in place, and will have staff continue to work on them internally. At some point, a good policy discussion should occur around cost share and what criteria could be used for those programs.

DISTRICT OPERATIONS

Pine Creek Conservation District Board (PCCD) Chairman, Tom Henning, Board member, Brandon VanDalsen, District Manager, Raymond Brown, and two other board members joined by phone to speak to the SCC Board members about their recent CAPP issues. At the Commission's request, the board had an audit completed and provided the full report. The audit did not have any findings, however, the district did receive a management letter regarding the delay in reporting.

PCCD members provided an action plan and noted they have completed two policies with dates included for when to have annual plans and financial report submitted. Goal is to have their plans submitted by the end of February to avoid being delinquent.

SCC Chairman Kropf and Vice Chairman Longrie thanked the board for their follow up and documentation.

Motion by Commissioner Cochran to release the second half of funding to Pine Creek Conservation District. Seconded by Commissioner Longrie. Motion passed.

Irrigation Efficiencies

Motion by Commissioner Longrie to approve the two policy amendments brought forward by staff:

- 1. Remove the per-project-cap on larger pipeline (conveyance) projects.**
- 2. Obtain quit claim deeds and tax forms for all in-perpetuity projects that have already been completed. Require quit claim deed and excise tax on all new perpetuity projects.**

The program is to cover the cost of excise tax relative to conservation measures and public benefit.

Seconded by Commissioner Beale. Motion passed.

Contract Length

Motion by Commissioner Longrie to adopt the amended Policies and Guidelines relating to the contract length so the adopted, proposed changes can be published to conservation districts per regular policy adoption procedures. Seconded by Commissioner Williams. Motion passed.

Adams CD Petition for Inclusion of Territory

The City of Ritzville wishes to be annexed into the Adams Conservation District. The District and City, pursuant to RCW 89.08 and established procedure, submitted the appropriate documentation: *Petition for Inclusion of Additional Territory within the Adams Conservation District and Resolution No. 2017-03* for Commission approval.

Motion by Commissioner Longrie to accept the annexation petition to include the City of Ritzville into the territory of the Adams Conservation District. Seconded by Commissioner Crose. Motion passed.

2018 Conservation Accountability and Program Performance (CAPP)

SCC staff provided an update on the work the new CAPP Workgroup has been doing for the 2018 CAPP system. The work group includes original WSCC work group members plus the five managers from the pilot districts. Staff reported five Conservation Districts (Palouse Rock Lake, Okanogan, Snohomish, Clark, and North Yakima) have been using the 31 performance measures in CAPP and have been providing valuable input to the Commission CAPP Committee, regarding clarifying the performance measures, as well as ideas on incentives and use for building district capacity. In addition a few districts used the performance standards this year and made changes in their operation.

The CAPP Work Group met in January to begin work on the 2018 CAPP system. Staff provided to members in their packets for consideration, the 2018 draft which includes feedback from the five pilot districts; new language included in performance standards; a new format of 8 standards with the first being the accountability standard; best practices under each standard, instead of 31 individual standards; consideration of a report of School Districts sit-ins for accreditation; more attention to capacity building and moving away from accreditation; emphasis on incentives to build capacity in all eight standards. Staff reported the workgroup is still needing work on the issue when a district meets all the accountability standards but is not getting conservation work done.

Motion by Williams to continue work on the 2018 CAPP system with workgroup, send out to districts for comment per agency policy on policies, and report back to the Commission in March. Seconded by Commissioner Crose. Motion passed.

Thurston Conservation District Update

Chairman Kropf announced, per the guidance from Robin McPherson, SCC's AAG, the Commission is screened from information about potential neglect or malfeasance by individual supervisors because of a pending investigation. All information or comments should be given to SCC executive director, Mark Clark.

Washington Grown Video

Laura Johnson, SCC Communications Coordinator shared a new clip highlighting the Clark Conservation District. Check out Clark CD's work with urban/small acreage farms: Empowering environmental and financial sustainability on Vimeo here at the link: <https://vimeo.com/240528709>

Chairman adjourned the business meeting at 2:42 p.m.