

**APPROVED**  
**May 17, 2018**



Washington State Conservation Commission Regular Business Meeting  
Lacey, Washington  
March 15, 2018

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The Washington State Conservation Commission (Commission/SCC) met in regular session on March 15, 2018, in Lacey, Washington. Chairman Kropf called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m.

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**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  
Thomas Miller, 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  
Kirk Robinson, Special Projects

**PARTNERS AT THE TABLE REPRESENTED AT THIS MEETING**

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

**GUESTS ATTENDED**

Jim Peters, NWIFC, Fran Wilhusen, NWIFC, Robert Duff, Governor's Policy Office, JT Austin, Governor's Policy Office, Doug Rushton, Thurston CD, Nick Vira, NRCS, David Rose, NRCS, Ryan Baye, WACD, Patricia Hickey, WACD, Tony Wilson, Theresa Sygitowicz, Whatcom CD, Sarah Moorehead, Eric Johnson, Joe Hannah, Richard Mankameyer, Thurston CD, Mark Craven, Snohomish CD.

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**PRESENTATIONS**

The Conservation Commission welcomed a presentation from Fran Wilhusen, Director of Habitat Services and Jim Peters, Habitat Policy Analyst of the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission (NWIFC). They provided an overview of the agency programs and their work. NWIFC was created in 1974 and is a natural resources management support service organization for 20 treaty Indian tribes in western Washington. Headquartered in Olympia, the NWIFC employs approximately 65 people with satellite offices in Burlington and Forks.

The NWIFC was created following the ruling 1974 U.S. v. Washington ruling (Boldt Decision) that re-affirmed the tribes' treaty-reserved fishing rights. The ruling established them as natural resources co-managers with the State of Washington with an equal share of the harvestable number of salmon returning annually.

The commission is composed of representatives from each member tribe who elect a chair, vice chair and treasurer. Commissioners provide direction to the NWIFC executive director, who in turn implements that direction.

NWIFC member tribes are: Lummi, Nooksack, Swinomish, Upper Skagit, Sauk-Suiattle, Stillaguamish, Tulalip, Muckleshoot, Puyallup, Nisqually, Squaxin Island, Skokomish, Suquamish, Port Gamble S'Klallam, Jamestown S'Klallam, Lower Elwha Klallam, Makah, Quileute, Quinault, and Hoh. The role of the NWIFC is to assist member tribes in their role as natural resources co-managers. The commission provides direct services to tribes in areas such as biometrics, fish health and salmon management to achieve an economy of scale that makes more efficient use of limited federal funding. The NWIFC also provides a forum for tribes to address shared natural resources management issues and enables the tribes to speak with a unified voice in Washington, D.C.

### **Governor's Office Representatives**

Rob Duff and JT Austin, Governor Inslee's Natural Resource Policy Analysts, were introduced. They shared the Governor recently released Executive Order (EO) 18-02, South Resident Killer Whale Recovery and Task Force. The Southern Residents are classified as endangered in WA and surrounding waters struggling to raise calves due to being in poor conditions. The EO creates a Task Force which will kick off in early May to look at possible topics: prey availability, traffic vessel and noise, and communications and outreach. They have narrowed down to two (2) Co-Chairs, Les Purce, past President of the Evergreen State College and a San Juan resident. They are also looking for agricultural representatives. A website will be created for public use as well as having all meetings open to the public. JT also noted engagement with Tribal leaders, partners and staff will be done as much as possible and is extremely important to help bring the knowledge and history as they all move forward in the effort. SCC Policy Director, Ron Shultz noted to JT the SCC's interest in being a part of the task force.

Rob Duff provided an update on his work being done with the Office of Chehalis Basin. They are currently looking for an executive director and working in detail with the group in putting together a fish plan. They borrowed the paradigm of the Yakima Integrated Plan; it has been seen as an example at the federal level. The Basin is one of the biggest in the state and has been left out in discussions. He mentioned the SLS group on Snohomish is a great collaborative group; the Salmon Recovery Board is one of the only agencies to do monitoring. Mr. Duff highlighted the Commission's database's ability to grab the implementation in the beginning, and then are able to monitor and track effectiveness.

Director Clark talked about direct funding to districts, and how frustrating it has been to increase capacity to get things done on the ground. The state is at a low level with money going towards natural resources. Rob responded the Department of Social Health Services is usually the top priority for the children and elderly. He also noted bringing the right decision packages forward and having the right justification on why the funding is needed, is important. He understands the frustration in seeing funds in the Governor's budget and at the end, it is not. JT responded having the right legislative champions is also helpful. She noted Representative Fitzgibbons as a great champion for agriculture, and understands farming and restorations, as well as Representative Wilcox.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Theresa Sygitowicz, Whatcom CD Supervisor spoke to commission members about issues that has come up from their recent conservation district elections and hope to expand more in May. She gave members the heads up that some of the candidates are ‘lawyering’ up and plan to attend the May Commission meeting in Pullman, Washington.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

The January 18, 2018, draft meeting minutes, were presented for Commission approval.

**Motion by Commissioner Longrie to approve the January 18, 2018 draft SCC Business Meeting minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Beale. Motion passed.**

## **BUDGET**

Eleanor Dovey, SCC Fiscal Manager presented the financials to members. The Operating Budget report provided was information as of February 2018. The budget is for two fiscal years 2018-2019 and made of four elements: Administration, food policy, grants and TA, and water quality improvements. To date, the Operating currently shows underspending of \$132, 830. The reports provided can be found in the [meeting packet](#) on pages 11-14.

Ms. Dovey also shared the Capital funds spent to date. Due to the delay in the Legislature passing new money, the agency is beginning to allocate the funds out to districts. She noted the budget goes through the biennium and provided the funding allocation status to date.

### **2018 WSCC Supplemental Budget Request**

Legislature added \$2 million more to the Recreation Conservation Partnership Program (RCP) match. Proviso language was also added for shellfish funding to add more work to be done. SCC staff, Ron Shultz mentioned the Pacific Conservation District has a top priority to work on Washaway Beach. At the time, Ron could only use funding for certain purposes and was not able to allocate. After talking to Representative Blake, Ron suggested language on how to use the existing funding. The new language now includes a total amount that cannot exceed \$600K.

### **Natural Resource Investment (NRI)**

Director Clark noted there will be a workgroup to allocate funding out to districts 3<sup>rd</sup> priority. Hope to have the same workgroup as last time to get together and allocate funding before the May commission meeting.

### **2019-2021 Budget Development**

Mr. Shultz shared the proposed timeline and process for the 2019-2021 budget development process. More details can be found in the [meeting packet](#), beginning on page 17. The timeline includes participation and input with all districts in April, in May, members would discuss proposed decision packages, approve further development of process, May through July, SCC continues to work with CD’s and outreach to stakeholder and partner agencies. Mid-August, SCC special meeting to approve prioritization of decision packages to be

submitted final to the Office of Financial Management. September 1, Operating and Capital budget proposals submitted into OFM. September 20, SCC approves messaging around budget proposals, and December 2018, Governor releases proposed 2019-2021 operating and capital budgets.

**Motion by Commissioner Longrie to approve the 2019-2021 state budget development process for the SCC and the conservation districts, as proposed by staff. (Meeting packet pages 17-22). Seconded by Commissioner Crose. Motion passed.**

## **DISTRICT OPERATIONS**

### **Conservation Accountability Performance Program (CAPP)**

Commission Cochran, member of the CAPP workgroup, reported out to members the proposed CAPP system for their approval as final. The proposed system was developed from a year long process of piloting in five conservation districts and multiple meetings of the CAPP Work Group. The Work Group included two Commission members, Regional Managers, two District Supervisors, and six District Managers including the five 2017 pilot project district managers.

Commissioner Cochran stated the document being presented should continue to stay as a living document, as it has opportunities to be modified in the future. He noted he was very pleased to be a part of the effort. The process was very informative, especially for many who have been around the conservation arena for a while. The purpose of the Work Group is to lift all CDs up and have something we can use to help every district do better. This is to not judge anyone, but more to help say, this can help you become more successful. It is also standard performance of using government funds.

**Motion by Commissioner Cochran to approve the adoption of the 2018 Conservation Accountability and Performance Program (CAPP) system as presented and to send out to the conservation districts for their use, effective immediately. Seconded by Commissioner Longrie. Motion passed. ([Meeting packet pages 31-41](#))**

### **Supervisor Appointment Process Ideas for Improvement**

At the January Commission meeting after the discussion of the current Supervisor Appointment process, members formed a Commission work group to develop recommendations for improving the process. The Work Group met twice to develop the recommendations presented in their meeting packets. All recommendations can be found beginning on [page 43 of the meeting packets](#).

Discussion on the importance of the appointed positions. Public comment from Richard Mankameyer was to remove the appointed and have all members elected. SCC staff, Ron Shultz responded, that the reason for two appointed is the notion of having the district connect with the state body, it is also in our statute to have landowner/farm operator.

After much discussion of the proposal, members made a motion to approve specific recommendations to implement this current cycle.

**Motion by Commissioner Longrie to approve the following recommendations for the Supervisor Appointment Process. Seconded by Commissioner Beale. Motion passed.**

**Recommendation A: Pilot a more comprehensive interview process for supervisor appointments where there are multiple applicants (not incumbent) including interviews and vetting by two Commission Members (implement this cycle).**

**Recommendation B: With incumbent appointed positions continue current process with elected commission member's contacts (implement this cycle)**

**Recommendation C: All commissioners would receive packet or electronic link with applications from all applicants (implement this cycle).**

#### **Expectations & Responsibilities are clear before Appointment**

**Recommendation E: Automatic procedure to send a copy of duties and responsibilities and the links to orientation modules to any new candidate for appointed supervisor (implement this cycle).**

#### **Fill Gap(s) of Representation at District**

**Recommendation H: Commission members vetting applications will consult with Commission staff on current board make-up, representation and qualifications as part of the application review vetting process (implement this cycle)**

#### **Status of Thurston Conservation District Investigation**

SCC staff, Ron Shultz, provided a briefing memo to members on the status and process being conducted in regards to the Thurston Conservation District. .

Thurston County Commissioner, Gary Edwards asked if he can address the Board prior to their deliberation. He and his colleagues have some very serious concerns and wants to make sure the Conservation Commission hears them. Mr. Shultz responded, yes, there will be an opportunity to share concerns.

To read the entire memo and process outlined, please see [meeting packet pages 64-66](#).

Chairman Kropf adjourned the meeting at 3:14 p.m.