

Washington Association of Conservation Districts

Remote Connection through Zoom

November 16, 2020

Summary of Board Actions

- **Motion:** Dean Longrie moved to accept the September meeting minutes with the correction of Ryan Palmateer's title and Roylene Comes at Night's name. Second by Alan Chapman. Motion carried.
- **Motion:** Alan Chapman moved to authorize Executive Director Tom Salzer to spend whatever amount necessary to purchase new medical coverage to meet current WACD practices. Second by Amy McKay. Friendly amendment by Doug Rushton was accepted to limit spending from reserves to \$15,000. Motion carried.
- **Motion:** Doug Rushton moved to adopt proclamation announcing November as Native American Heritage Month as presented. Second by Amy McKay. Motion carried.
- **Motion:** Alan Chapman moved to adopt the proposed policy changes by the Tribal Relations Committee. Second by Amy McKay. Motion carried.
- **Motion:** Dean Longrie moved to officially adopt the draft WACD strategic plan and scorecard. Second by Doug Rushton. Motion carried.
- **Motion:** John Keatley moved to adapt Finance Committee Recommendations 1.1 and 1.2 to rename and renumber WACD's reserve accounts policy. Second by Chris Porter. Mark Craven moved to amend Recommendation 1.2, substituting "\$175,000" for "10 year rolling average". Second by Amy McKay. Amy McKay moved to postpone adopting Recommendations 1.1 and 1.2. Second by Chris Porter. Motion carried.
- **Motion:** Chris Porter moved to adopt Finance Committee Recommendation 1.1 to rename WACD's reserve accounts. Second by Barbara Bailey. Motion carried.
- **Motion:** Amy McKay moved to approve Finance Committee Recommendation 4.2 to adopt a new policy on regular outside reviews of WACD's accounts and transactions. Second by Chris Porter. Motion carried.
- **Motion:** Dean Longrie moved to adopt Finance Committee Recommendation 6 to authorize spending from reserve accounts to pay for WACD's financial review and purchase social media archiving software. Second by Jeff Schibel. Motion carried.
- **Motion:** Alan Chapman moved to positively recommend Bylaw Committee recommendations 1 (Treasurer Duties), 2 (Office Address), and 3 (correcting Underwood CD) to the WACD business meeting. Second by Amy McKay. Motion carried.
- **Motion:** Mark Craven moved to positively recommend the Bylaw Committee recommendation on a non-voting membership class to the WACD business meeting. Second by Amy McKay. Motion carried.

- **Motion:** Alan Chapman moved to positively recommendation the Bylaw Committee’s recommendation on temporarily extending the current President’s term limits to the annual business meeting. Second by Mark Craven. Motion carried.
- **Motion:** Dean Longrie moved to authorize Tom Salzer to sign a lobbying services contract with Martin Flynn Public Affairs covering 2021. Second by Doug Rushton. Motion carried.
- **Motion:** Mark Craven moved to adopt a monthly WACD board meeting schedule on the evening of the 3rd Monday of each month in 2021. Second by Chris Porter. Motion carried.

Board of Directors November Meeting Minutes

Members Remotely Present

Jeanette Dorner, President (Pierce CD)
 Amy McKay, Secretary (Whitman CD)
 Doug Rushton, National Director (Thurston CD)
 Mark Craven, Past President (Snohomish CD)
 Chris Porter, Northwest Area Director (King CD)
 Alan Chapman, Northwest Area Director (Whatcom CD)
 Dean Longrie, Southwest Area Director (Clark CD)
 John Keatley, Southwest Area Director (Cowlitz CD)
 John Preston, North Central Area Director (Grant County CD)
 John McLean, North Central Area Director (Foster Creek CD)
 Cindy Reed, South Central Area Director (North Yakima CD)
 Barbara Bailey, South Central Area Director (Underwood CD)
 Jeff Schibel, Northeast Area Director (Lincoln County CD)
 Mary Collins, Southeast Area Director (Palouse CD)

Others Remotely Present

Tom Salzer, WACD Executive Director
 Ryan Baye, WACD Legislative & Membership Lead
 Jim Brown, WACD PMC Nursery Manager
 Larry Davis, Whatcom Conservation District Supervisor
 Carol Smith, WSCC Executive Director
 Roylene Comes at Night, NRCS State Conservationist

Jeanette Dorner called the meeting order at 9:03. She called for any requested changes to the agenda, none were offered.

Area Director Reports

Mary Collins reported two common themes in the SE Area, working hard to get projects finished and adjusting to COVID reality.

The two Northeast Area Directors commented how “no news was good news” for them, other than a new district manager at Pend Oreille CD.

Alan Chapman attended several NW Area district meetings, with more resolutions coming from his area than any other. Several districts were hiring new managers, more were restricting staff hours. Chris Porter, as a new Area Director, was looking forward to discussing resolutions and legislative priorities.

Dean Longrie and John Keatley were glad their SW Area districts were fitting projects into hydraulic windows, addressing a major concern, despite largely working remotely.

There were new COVID restrictions in the South Central Area, accordingly to Barbara Bailey and Cindy Reed. This resulted in districts conducting different levels of activities, because of the uneven health laws.

John Preston's and John McLean's North Central area districts were focused on fire recovery and ground water issues.

September Meeting Minutes

There were two corrections to the September minutes, correcting Ryan Palmateer's title and using Roylene Comes at Night's married name. Dean Longrie moved to accept meeting minutes as corrected. Second by Alan Chapman. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Tom Salzer, Jim Brown, and Ryan Baye briefly recapped the financial report submitted to the board. Tom outlined two issues requiring the Board's decision, extending medical insurance to spouses and dependents as well as a larger than expected increase in insurance premiums. He answered questions about how WACD's current practice deviated from established policy and how often staff shopped for health insurance options. There was also a request to revisit the issue before adopting a new budget in 2021. Alan Chapman moved to give the Executive Director authorization to spend whatever is necessary to best meet current practice and exceed budget limits to do so. Second by Amy McKay. Doug Rushton offered a friendly amendment to limit any increase in spending to \$15,000 which was accepted. Motion carried.

Tribal Relations Committee Report

Daryl Williams joined the meeting; he and Larry Davis presented a draft proclamation on behalf of WACD's Tribal Relations Committee declaring November Native American Heritage Month. Doug Rushton moved to adopt the proclamation as presented. Second by Amy McKay. Motion carried. Larry and Daryl also presented policy change recommendations from the committee to allow multiple tribal entities to be awarded a WACD Tribal Partnership Award. Alan Chapman moved to adopt policy changes as presented. Second by Amy McKay. Motion carried.

There was a break from 11:00 to 11:15.

Nursery Manager Report

Jim capsulized sales at the PMC as smaller but more numerous orders resulted in slightly below sales projections. He detailed new COVID restrictions related to agriculture operations that applied to the nursery. The staff was getting ready for harvest and planned on hosting a Plant Sales Round Table with interested districts that week.

Strategic Plan

Tom presented the latest draft of the strategic plan, outlining the outreach to districts at area meetings and the differences versus what was presented in September. Dean Longrie moved to adopt the draft strategic plan and scorecard as presented. Doug Rushton seconded. There was one comment for more measurables and defined outcomes to be incorporated into the plan. Motion carried.

Finance Committee Recommendations

Tom presented the Finance Committee's six recommendations, on behalf of Treasurer Dave Fenn. He suggested discussing them in sections, rather than adopting the full list wholesale.

John Keatley moved to adopt Recommendation 1.1 to rename WACD's reserve accounts and 1.2 to reset funding targets for the reserve accounts. Second by Chris Porter. There was discussion on about how the funding target for the Operating Reserve recommendation was set at a 10-year rolling average of PMC loses and what was acceptable risk to the board. Mark Craven moved to amend Recommendation 1.2 to substitute "10-year average" for \$175,000. Second by Amy McKay. There were several additional questions asked that were unable to be answered at the time, including the impact of COVID on this year's sales and what the board would consider acceptable risk. Amy McKay moved to postpone Recommendation 1.1 and 1.2. Second by Chris Porter. Jeanette and Ryan answered questions about parliamentary procedure. Motion carried. Chris Porter moved to adopt Recommendation 1.1 Second by Barbara Bailey. Motion carried.

Tom presented Recommendations 2 and 3, with consensus to hold off consideration until the board considered Recommendation 1.2 in the future. Amy McKay moved to approve Recommendation 4.2 to conduct regular financial reviews. Second by Chris Porter. Several members discussed potential changes to the policy as presented. A voice vote was inconclusive, Jeanette conducted a roll call vote. Motion carried.

There was a break for lunch from 12:40 to 1:00.

Dean Longrie moved to adopt Recommendation 6 to authorize reserve spending for completing regular financial review and social media archiving costs. Second by Jeff Schibel. Motion carried.

Bylaw Recommendations

Alan Chapman moved to positively recommend Bylaw Committee recommendations 1 (Treasurer Duties), 2 (Office Address), and 3 (correcting Underwood CD) to the WACD annual business meeting. Second by Amy McKay. Motion carried.

Mark Craven moves to recommend Bylaw Recommendation #5 (Non-Voting Membership). Second by Amy. Motion carried with one abstention. Barbara moved Recommendation #6 (Eligibility of Associate Supervisors for WACD Leadership) with the addition they have the approval of their local board. Second by Doug. Several board members expressed concern with the motion. Motion failed. Alan Chapman moved Recommendation 4 (Officer Term of Service). Second by Mark Craven. Motion carried.

Legislative Report and Strategy

Brynn Brady joined the meeting to discuss the recent election results, how the legislature planned to meet virtually in the 2021 legislative session, and the budget forecast for the FY21-23 biennium.

Legislative Priorities and Goals

Ryan Baye presented a memo on the 2021 legislative session, what House and Senate leadership expected to focus on, and how WACD would need to adapt. He also discussed the three budget principles that WACD staff was preparing to advocate for: more conservation technical assistance funding to districts, support for the Commission's budget, and including districts in any wildfire resiliency funding legislation.

2021 Lobbying Contract

Dean Longrie moved to authorize a 2021 lobbying contract with Martin Flynn Public Affairs and Ceiba Consulting. Second by Doug Ruston. Ryan Baye answered questions and experience with Brynn, successes to date, and her client list. Motion carried.

Partner Reports

Carol Smith shared a report from the State Conservation Commission, discussing their election webinars and thanking area meeting participants.

Roylene Comes at Night reported for NRCS on new hires, their budget, and program changes.

Larry Davis, as President of the Washington Conservation Society, updated the WACD board on their activities and their new Amazon Smile account for donations.

2021 Board Meeting Schedule

Ryan presented three board meeting options and how meeting remotely allowed for more frequent meetings. Mark Craven moved to adopt Option 3 that WACD's Board meeting monthly. Second by Chris Porter. Motion carried.

Adjourned at 3:30