

Washington Association of Conservation Districts

Remote Connection through Zoom

April 18, 2022

Summary of Board Motions

- **Motion:** John Preston moved to adopt the agenda with an addition of “Declaring the Lincoln as Surplus” as an action item under the Treasurer’s Report and including “May Work Session Topics” under Announcements and Updates. Second by Jeff Schibel. Motion carried.
- **Motion:** Alan Chapman moved to accept the February and March minutes as presented. Second by Annie Byerly. Motion carried.
- **Motion:** Jeff Schibel moved to accept the Treasurer’s Report as presented. Second by Doug Rushton. Motion carried.
- **Motion:** Alan Chapman moved to declare WACD’s Lincoln MKZ as surplus and to authorize staff to either sell or donate the vehicle. Second by Doug. Motion carried.
- **Motion:** Dave Fenn moved to allocate \$5,000 from the travel line-item for WADE scholarships for conference attendees. Second by Amy McKay. Motion carried with Bill Blake abstaining.
- **Motion:** Doug Rushton moved to authorize Board member travel, lodging, and conference registration for the 2022 WADE Conference as eligible for board member reimbursement. Second by Bill Blake. Motion carried.
- **Motion:** Doug Rushton moved to endorse the legislative topics listed as preliminary priorities for staff to prioritize this summer. Second by Mary Collins. Motion carried.
- **Motion:** Amy McKay moved to cancel the July and August Board work sessions. Second by Barbara Bailey. Motion carried.
- **Motion:** Alan Chapman moved to adopt the survey recommendations as the basis for 2022/2023 Annual Conference bids. Second by Amy McKay. Motion carried.

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Board of Directors March Work Session Minutes

Members Remotely Present

Mike Mumford, President (Pend Oreille CD)

Amy McKay, Vice President (Whitman CD)

Barbara Bailey, Secretary (Underwood CD)

Dave Fenn, Treasurer (Lewis CD)

Doug Rushton, National Director (Thurston CD)

Jeanette Dorner, Past President (Pierce CD)
Alan Chapman, Northwest Area Director (Whatcom CD)
Lisa Zaborac, Southwest Area Director (Grays Harbor CD)
John Preston, North Central Area Director (Grant County CD)
John McLean, North Central Area Director (Foster Creek CD)
Jack Clark, South Central Area Director (Benton CD)
Jeff Schibel, Northeast Area Director (Lincoln County CD)
Annie Byerly, Southeast Area Director (Walla Walla County CD)
Mary Collins, Southeast Area Director (Palouse CD)
Bill Blake, WADE President (Skagit CD)

Others Remotely Present

Tom Salzer, WACD Executive Director
Jim Brown, WACD Director of Nursery Operations
Ryan Baye, WACD Director of Legislative and Membership Services
Roylene Comes at Night, NRCS State Conservationist
Christopher Pettit, WSCC Executive Director
Josh Monaghan, Monaghan Consulting LLC
Michael Broeckel, Supervisor (Adams CD)
Susan Shelton, Finance & Administrative Manager (Thurston CD)
Carolyn Wilcox, Supervisor (Clallam CD)
Christy Cox, Supervisor (Clallam CD)
Dana Coggon, Executive Director (Pierce CD)
Kirstin Haugen, Supervisor (King CD)
Rosa Mendez, Executive Director (King CD)
Joe Holtrop, District Manager (Jefferson CD)

President Mumford called the meeting to order at 6 PM. Ryan Baye took roll to confirm the presence of a quorum.

Ryan Baye presented the draft agenda to the board, with two requested changes to the agenda. John Preston moved to adopt the agenda with an addition of “Declaring the Lincoln as Surplus” as an action item under the Treasurer’s Report and including “May Work Session Topics” under Announcements and Updates. Second by Jeff Schibel. Motion carried.

Area Focus

Carolyn Wilcox shared her background and how she got involved with Clallam CD. She was concerned about the less than 1% of voters that elected her to her office as part of the lack of awareness of the district, and WACD’s positions during the legislative session on the topic of district elections.

Christy Cox reiterated the position of her fellow supervisor. The Clallam Board of Supervisors had discussed the issue extensively and supports being on the general election ballot, but that the cost was not affordable to their district. And that Clallam CD supported the option for all districts of able to be on the general election ballot.

Dana Coggon shared her background and initial thoughts of serving as the new Executive Director of Pierce CD. She was happy at the success of the district's recent tree sale, new grants for wildfire resiliency within the county, and possible new revenue for tree canopy grants. She shared Pierce CD was taking a hard look at the district's finances and was exploring a levy lift/rate adjustment in the RCW.

Rosa Mendez focused on working together with everyone on CD Elections, then discussed some of the details of King CD's strategic planning process.

Board Meeting Minutes

Barbara Bailey presented the previous business meeting and work session minutes to the board for adoption. Alan Chapman moved accept the February and March minutes as presented. Second by Annie Byerly. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Dave Fenn reported the PMC booked more than \$1.5 million in sales and updated the board on the status of WACD's other accounts. Tom Salzer disclosed to the board a diversion from a policy requiring authorization to transfer money between WACD accounts. He believed it was an oversight that has since been corrected. Jeff Schibel moved to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. Second by Doug Rushton. Dave Fenn asked the Board members to look at the full financials each month and not just rely on his report. Motion carried.

Ryan Baye presented information on a situation with WACD's car, how the estimates to fix the broken sunroof on the Lincoln exceeded the value of the car. He asked for the Board to declare the Lincoln as surplus because there is no current policy on how to do that. Alan Chapman moved to declare WACD's Lincoln MKZ as surplus and to authorize staff to either sell or donate the vehicle. Second by Doug. Motion carried.

Investment Task Force

Mike Broeckel discussed the draft investment policy being developed by the Investment Task Force for the board to consider in June. The group needed guidance from the Board on the risk and return preferences, since that dictates other portions of their policy. Several board members preferred a moderate risk and return policy. There were additional comments about how to approach such an investment decision and expectations for measuring the success of a new policy.

Committee Updates

Mike Mumford spoke on behalf of the Sustainable Funding Committee, how he was still struggling to find a supervisor from the North Central area to serve on the committee.

Ryan Baye reported the Harmful Algae Bloom Task Force had their first meeting, Bill Blake shared details as a member of that group. Ryan also updated the Board on the progress of forming a Livestock Task Force and how staff was getting the word out.

WADE Scholarships

Bill Blake requested WACD consider providing financial support to the WADE Conference, there were more requests for scholarship assistance than their Commission funding allocated for. Dave Fenn

moved to allocate \$5,000 from the travel line-item for WADE scholarships for conference attendees. Second by Amy McKay. Question by Doug Rushton about available funding, Ryan Baye responded with the unused travel expenses that could be easily redirected. Motion carried with Bill Blake abstaining.

Authorizing WACD Travel to WADE

Doug Rushton wanted WACD to authorize the WADE conference as eligible for Board travel and allow Officers and Directors to attend on WACD's behalf. He invited Board members to consider attending and represent WACD along the way. Doug Rushton moved to authorize Board member travel, lodging, and conference registration for the 2022 WADE Conference as eligible for board member reimbursement. Second by Bill Blake. Motion carried.

Commission Budget Development

Christopher Pettit had three topics he was seeking comment on from WACD: budget topics to include in the Commission's September decision packages, feedback on the legislative funding received this session, and the draft guidelines for the Sustainable Farms and Fields grant program.

WACD Annual Work Plan Presentation

Josh Monaghan spoke to the draft work plan included in the meeting materials that he, Tom Salzer, and Ryan Baye worked on. He introduced the timeline staff was operating under and their draft work plan, also providing a cursory glance at the main work topics.

Legislative Priorities

Ryan Baye highlighted the changes made to the draft priorities based on the limited feedback received by the membership and the reasonings for his deviations from the original recommendations. Doug Rushton moved to endorse the legislative topics listed as preliminary priorities for staff to prioritize this summer. Second by Mary Collins. Doug Rushton did want to make it clear to the Board that there would be unanticipated topics emerging during the summer. Motion carried.

WACD Board Meeting Schedule

Mike Mumford had asked for the topic of canceling the July and August meetings to be on the agenda, for staff to dedicate their time to other items while still providing updates to the board. He also wanted to give the Board the opportunity to reconsider the plan to meet at the Plant Materials Center for their June budget meeting. Amy McKay moved to cancel July and August Work Session. Second by Barbara Bailey. Ryan Baye provided additional details about the June meeting, and what staff planned to do to keep the Board informed during the summer interim. Motion carried.

WACD Annual Conference

Ryan Baye presented the results of the conference survey, to determine what the membership would prefer for future Annual Conferences. And what staff would plan to bring for the Board's consideration for a vote at the June meeting. Alan Chapman moved to adopt the survey recommendations as the basis for 2022/2023 Annual Conference bids. Second by Amy McKay. Motion carried.

Public Comment Period

Ryan Baye provided a background before offering the draft policy, citing new statutes set to come into effect around public comment policies. He answered questions about his draft recommendation and led the discussion around various options. Tom Salzer wanted to incorporate policy language that would also allow public comment before a final vote so the Board could be fully informed. There was also discussion of how to prevent misuse.

Announcements and Updates

Ryan Baye updated the board on the Congressional meetings as part of the NACD Fly-In, the progress to fill the two area director vacancies, the reduction of releasing WACD's 5 Things weekly newsletter to twice a month during the summer, and his current list of topics for the May work session.

Meeting adjourned at 8:27.