
Regular Business Meeting

The Washington State Conservation Commission (Commission/SCC) met virtually on March 18, 2021. Chairman Longrie called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Dean Longrie, *Chairman and elected west region rep.*
Harold Crose, *Vice-chairman and elected central region rep.*
Perry Beale, *Department of Agriculture*
Larry Cochran, *elected eastern region rep.*
Jeanette Dorner, *Washington Association of Conservation Districts*
David Giglio, *Department of Ecology*
Jim Kropf, *Washington State University*
Sarah Spaeth, *Governor Appointee*
Daryl Williams, *Governor Appointee*

COMMISSION STAFF PRESENT

Carol Smith, *Executive Director*
Mike Baden, *Northeast Regional Manager*
Allisa Carlson, *South Central Regional Manager*
Brian Cochrane, *Habitat & Monitoring Coordinator*
Stephanie Crouch, *Administrative Assistant*
Kate Delavan, *Office of Farmland Preservation Coordinator*
Bill Eller, *Elections Officer and VSP Coordinator*
Lori Gonzalez, *Executive Assistant*
Josh Giuntoli, *Southwest Regional Manager*
Sarah Groth, *Fiscal Manager*
Alison Halpern, *Policy Assistant*
Karla Heinitz, *Contracts Manager*
Laura Johnson, *Communications Coordinator*
Shana Joy, *District Operations Manager*
Levi Keesecker, *Natural Resources Scientist*
Ron Shultz, *Policy Director*
Melissa Vander Linden, *Program Specialist*
Ashley Wood, *Fiscal Analyst*

PARTNERS REPRESENTED

Ryan Baye, *Washington Association of Conservation Districts*
Sherre Copeland, *US Forest Service*
Michael Kuttel, Jr., *Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife*
Doug Rushton, *National Association of Conservation Districts*
Tom Salzer, *Washington Association of Conservation Districts*

GUESTS ATTENDED

Please see "[Attachment A](#)" for full list of attendees.

Consent Agenda (*Action*)

Draft January 21, 2021 meeting minutes

Motion by Commissioner Crose to approve the January 21, 2021 meeting minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Kropf. Motion carries.

Budget and Finance (*Action*)

Task Order Report

Chairman Longrie invites Sarah Groth, SCC Fiscal manager, and Shana Joy, SCC Regional Manager Coordinator to present on the first agenda item. Ms. Groth and Ms. Joy explain that it is anticipated that the remaining SCC funding, from the original \$150,000 operating investment, will be insufficient to address the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and cultural resources workloads that NRCS is currently aware of and must complete by early July 2021.

In early 2020, the SCC entered into new contribution agreements with USDA NRCS for the following Farm Bill program work: Environmental Quality Incentives Program and Conservation Technical Assistance, Conservation Stewardship Program, and Conservation Reserve Program. These contribution agreements are funded at 75% NRCS funding and 25% SCC funding. In May of 2020, the Commission took formal action to approve investment in these contribution agreements, our 25% share, at a level of \$150,000 in the current fiscal year. As of February 16, 2021, the SCC has restricted \$94,782.29 into existing task orders with conservation districts leveraging \$284,346.87 in federal NRCS funds.

Close monitoring of currently funded task orders is ongoing to ensure we are able to re-allocate any leftover funds immediately as task orders are completed. SCC staff have worked closely with NRCS to ensure that the allowable 10% indirect rate for the SCC is fully taken advantage of as well. It is still likely that the current level of SCC funding will be insufficient. Conservation districts are fully engaged and capable of handling workload for NRCS and will benefit from additional task orders through the remainder of this fiscal year.

Motion by Commissioner Williams to allow for an increase in SCC investment in task orders through the end of June 2021, if funding is found to be available, within a new maximum amount of \$200,000. Seconded by Commissioner Cochran. Motion carries.

Policy & Programs (*Action*)

Blain Ranch and Lazy Cross Ranch Authorizations to enter Purchase and Sale Agreement and Proceed to Closing

Chairman Longrie invites Kate Delavan, SCC Office of Farmland Preservation Coordinator, to present on the next agenda item. Ms. Delavan provides background on the subject, explaining that the Conservation Commission (Commission) is responsible for the implementation of the Office of Farmland Preservation (OFP) and those activities identified in the OFP statute (RCW 89.10). The Commission has identified agricultural conservation easements as an important tool to assist in farmland protection and to advance conservation with willing landowners. As a state agency, the Commission is explicitly authorized by RCW 64.04.130 to acquire and hold an interest in land for conservation purposes.

The Blain Ranch Project will purchase an agricultural conservation easement on the approximately 1,925-acre Blain Ranch in Klickitat County. The property supports a large acreage cow calf operation. The conservation easement will permanently protect the property's agricultural values. In addition to the grant funded intention of permanently protecting the farmland from development, protecting the property will also support key habitat and identified species of concern in the Rock Creek watershed including Oregon White Oak, Peregrine Falcon, Western Gray Squirrel, Golden Eagle, and mid-Columbia ESA listed steelhead. The conservation easement will include one reserved residential development right to provide the landowner the option to build a house in the future. The remaining residential development potential will be permanently extinguished.

The Lazy Cross Ranch Project will purchase an agricultural conservation easement on the approximately 4,194-acre Lazy Cross Ranch in Klickitat County. The property supports a large acreage cow calf and dryland crop operation. The conservation easement will permanently protect

the property's agricultural values. Protection of this property is a value to not only the agricultural community, but to the species and habitat this property supports. The project area represents a unique region of transition between two biological communities with the eastern extent of Oregon white oak habitat transitioning into interior shrub steppe/grassland. The conservation easement will extinguish all residential development potential.

Motion by Commissioner Crose to authorize the Conservation Commission's Executive Director to sign documents for acquisition of an agricultural conservation easement on the approximately 1,925-acre Blain Ranch and on the approximately 4,194-acre Lazy Cross Ranch in Klickitat County. Seconded by Commissioner Beale. Motion carries.

District Operations (*Action*)

Cascadia CD election, February 5, 2021

Chairman Longrie welcomes Bill Eller, SCC Voluntary Stewardship Program Coordinator and Election Officer, to present on the next two agenda items. Mr. Eller explains that on February 10, 2021, Commission staff was contacted by Peggy Entzel, District Administrator for Cascadia. She relayed that Cascadia held their election on Friday, February 5, but during the election the election supervisor and polling officers forgot to record the voters on a poll list. A conservation district must use a poll list in their election under WAC 135-110-550.

Election details are as follows:

- 1. Election held at the Pybus Public Market in Wenatchee on Friday, Feb 5, from 11am-4pm*
- 2. Only one declared (meaning name pre-printed on the ballot) candidate, Dillon Miller, the incumbent*
- 3. Only seven voters – five of whom were personally known to the election supervisor (two were not)*
- 4. The election supervisor says that when voters approached their location to vote, both she and the polling officer orally asked for identification, which the voter provided, and then they proceeded to determine, by looking at the county auditor list of eligible voters, if the voter was eligible. They forgot to use the poll list to record the voter information. They verified that all seven voters were eligible, and provided ballots to them. All ballots were cast for the incumbent.*
- 5. The poll list is referenced in our Election Guide and provided to conservation districts for them to use on our Election Administrator's web page as form PF-C.*

The Commission typically takes action to certify or not certify conservation district elections at its May Commission meeting. This is because the May Commission meeting is generally the first regularly scheduled Commission meeting after the first quarter of the year. However, in an effort to expedite the scheduling of an election for the District outside of the requirement to hold it during the first quarter of the calendar year, the Commission can take action to not certify this election before its May Commission meeting.

If the Commission takes action to not certify the District's election, the District is then able to petition the superior court to order another election. The District is still required to hold an election, but the Commission lacks the statutory authority to schedule another election, which is why the District would have to petition the superior court. After successfully petitioning superior court to order another election, the process to hold the election would begin anew for the District.

Motion by Commissioner Williams to find that the Cascadia Conservation District election, conducted on February 5, 2021, is in significant noncompliance with WAC Chapter 135-110 due to the Cascadia Conservation District failing to create a poll list, as required by WAC 135-110-550. Therefore, the Commission declines to certify the election, as per WAC 135-110-795, and Cascadia is directed to have their election declared invalid by a Superior Court and a new election held. Seconded by Commissioner Kropf. Motion carries.

Palouse CD election, February 9, 2021

On March 1, 2021, the Palouse Conservation District (PCD) election supervisor Shelley Scott submitted the election report ("[Form EF2](#)") to the Commission. Commission staff reviewed that report in the normal course of business and found that there was just one polling officer documented for the February 9, 2021 PCD election. This is a violation of election procedures, specifically WAC 135-110-620, WAC 135-110-700 and WAC 135-110-710, which requires a CD to have at least two polling officers present to process ballots.

Election details are as follows:

1. *Mail-in election held at the Palouse CD office, 1615 NE Eastgate Blvd. Suite H, Pullman, WA 99163, on February 9, 2021, with a 4pm ballot-return deadline*
2. *Only one declared (meaning name pre-printed on the ballot) candidate, Jacob Smith.*
3. *Only one voter*
4. *The election supervisor says that when the one ballot that was requested by a voter was returned to the district, Palouse CD staff didn't realize it was a ballot despite being especially marked with a stamp to identify it as an election ballot. It was opened by Palouse CD staff. Even after it was opened and found to be an election ballot, Palouse CD staff did not use two polling officers to process, tally and record the ballot.*

As noted above, the Commission typically takes action to certify or not certify conservation district elections at its May Commission meeting. In an effort to expedite the scheduling of an election for the District outside of the requirement to hold it during the first quarter of the calendar year, the Commission can take action to not certify this election before its May Commission meeting. If the Commission takes action to not certify the District's election, the District is able to petition the superior court to order another election. The District is still required to hold an election, and after successfully petitioning superior court to order another election, the process to hold the election would begin anew for the District.

Motion by Commissioner Williams to find that the Palouse Conservation District election, conducted on February 9, 2021, is in significant noncompliance with WAC Chapter 135-110 due to the Palouse Conservation District failing to have two polling officers present for processing ballots, as required by WAC 135-110-620, WAC 135-110-700 and WAC 135-110-710, and therefore the Commission declines to certify the election, as per WAC 135-110-795, and Palouse is directed to have their election declared invalid by a Superior Court and a new election held. Seconded by Commissioner Beale. Commissioner Cochran abstains. Motion carries.

Natural Resource Investments Committee Report

Chairman Longrie welcomes back Shana Joy to begin presentation on the next agenda item relating to the Natural Resource Investments Committee Report. Ms. Joy explains that a key function at the core of the SCC is to support locally-led conservation through the work of CDs. The SCC provides funding support through various programs to help CDs be successful to further conservation. The NRI program is one way that the SCC supports CD work, and the current NRI program has remained largely unchanged for the last 3 biennia.

The current structure of the NRI program is one primary project type and structure for CDs to utilize – the single landowner cost-share project. In a single landowner cost-share project, a CD interacts with individual landowners to provide technical assistance (TA) and complete a BMP(s) on that landowner's property. The landowner is required to do the work and incur the costs up front and then seek reimbursement from the CD via the terms in the cost-share contract that is executed between the CD and the landowner. The landowner reimbursement amount is governed by a CD resolution that is established at the beginning of each biennium. A common ratio for cost-share projects is 75/25

with the CD reimbursing the landowner 75% of the project cost and the landowner covering the remaining 25% out of their pocket.

Today, the conservation work that CDs are taking on and engaging in is often more complex, more expensive, larger scale projects. These projects typically involve multiple landowners and multiple funding sources. The current NRI program structure is difficult if not impossible to utilize for these kinds of projects. Ms. Joy outlines some of the key challenges that CDs face utilizing the current NRI program and cost-share project structure:

- *Due to many possible factors, landowner willingness can change suddenly, causing a project to be reduced or cancelled all together. Currently, CDs have to work with Regional Managers and finance staff to cancel or reduce one project and, dependent on funding availability, initiate the next priority project. This can take several days and valuable staff time to coordinate and make these changes. There is little flexibility afforded to the local CD.*
- *The expense and scope of larger watershed or community-scale projects prevents a landowner or landowners from incurring the costs of this work up front and then seeking reimbursement. The current NRI program does not support CDs engaging in these larger scale or community-wide project types.*
- *For larger scope and scale projects, it is not realistic to expect a single landowner, or even multiple landowners working together, to conduct a process to select and manage an appropriate contractor to complete a fish passage barrier removal project, for example. It is far more efficient and effective for a CD to conduct the proper bidding and purchasing process to select and manage a contractor directly, rather than expect landowners to do this.*
- *The amount of TA required to complete a project varies greatly from project to project. Our current process of allocating a set percentage, usually 25%, of funding for TA to individual projects makes it difficult for CDs to actually devote the necessary amount of TA to each project when some projects can be TA-light and some can be very TA-heavy.*
- *The current required cost-share contract for the NRI program can be prohibitive for landowners to participate in certain kinds of projects.*
- *NRI funding is incompatible with other available funding sources to fill a gap in a large project, or be counted as match for other grant programs with the current structure. This prevents the CD from utilizing and leveraging NRI funds to their fullest.*

Due in part to these challenges in utilizing the NRI program to meet today's conservation project types, a resolution came forward and was approved unanimously at the 2019 WACD annual conference. The title of that resolution was Community Project Funding, 2019-24. In response to this resolution, as well as other feedback that Regional Managers have heard over the last few years from CDs across the state, an NRI Committee was formed in the summer of 2020.

The purpose of the NRI Committee is to develop recommendations for improvement and updating to the WSCC Natural Resource Investments Funding to Districts that can be shared with Districts and Commission Members for consideration of possible adoption for the next biennium. In keeping with this purpose, and pursuant to the language in the WACD resolution, the NRI Committee has met seven times to fully discuss, evaluate, and craft the proposal for updating the NRI program that is being presented to the Commission today (*view the full proposal and supplemental documents in the meeting packet on pages 26-46*).

The NRI Committee anticipates that by providing greater flexibility to CDs and including a new eligible project type (District Implemented Project) for the use of NRI funds, CDs will be able to contribute to an increased number of more complex, larger scope and scale projects and increase the leverage factor for NRI funding overall.

Motion by Commissioner Williams to direct staff to publish the draft NRI programmatic guidelines and landowner agreement template for at least a 30-day review and comment period by conservation districts with the intent that further action will be considered at the May 2021 Commission meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Dorner. Motion carries.

Conservation District Name Change

Ms. Joy continues presenting on the next agenda item concerning a conservation district name change. The Palouse Rock Lake Conservation District (PRLCD) has determined that changing the name of their district would reduce confusion with the nearby Palouse Conservation District. A name change would also reduce challenges with the length of their district name wherever it may appear such as signage, checks, letterhead, and other materials. PRLCD has taken local board action to approve, by resolution, that the district name be changed to the Rock Lake Conservation District. The PRLCD has submitted the proper documentation to the Commission, enclosed in the meeting Packet (**pages 47-50**), in order to process the change.

Motion by Commissioner Cochran to approve Palouse Rock Lake Conservation District's change of name to Rock Lake Conservation District and forward the documentation on to the Secretary of State for final processing. Seconded by Commissioner Crose. Motion carries.

Commission Operations (Action)

Strategic Planning/ Strategic Priorities and Goals:

Chairman Longrie invites Laura Johnson, SCC Communications Manager, and Carol Smith, SCC Executive Director, to present the next agenda item surrounding the SCC 2022-2027 Strategic Plan. Every five years the SCC reviews and updates their Five-Year Strategic Plan. This year, the agency is working to update the current 2016-2021 Strategic Plan with strategized input from commissioners, staff and our conservation community.

At the December 3, 2020 SCC meeting, commission members approved a timeline proposed by staff on how we could successfully achieve the completion of a 2022-2027 Strategic Plan.

At the January 18, 2021 Commission meeting, members reviewed the current mission, vision and values statements, and discussed adding diversity, equity, inclusion (DEI) language. A small committee of commission members (Dorner, Spaeth and Williams) worked with the executive director to review and provide proposed DEI language for full member review and approval. In the documents following the memo (**pages 57-60**), suggested edits from the previous meeting along with an additional DEI element added to the Values are displayed.

SCC staff met to strategize on potential agency priorities for commission review and response. Staff is also working on draft goals and tactics for the Commission to work from in May.

Items for March include a(n):

- *Approved timeline for developing the five-year strategic plan,*
- *Mission, vision and values document for final review and approval, and*
- *Staff proposed strategic priorities*

Motion by Commissioner Dorner to approve these changes, with the final sentence concerning DEI to be moved to a separate strategic priority of the overall strategic plan, to become effective and included in our newly updated 2022-2027 strategic plan document and updated on our commission website and communication materials. Seconded by Commissioner Giglio. Motion carries.

Motion by Commissioner Crose to approve the proposed strategic priorities with suggested changes as listed below. Seconded by Commissioner Cochran. Motion carries.

- *Priority Area: Improving Natural Resources through Voluntary Conservation*
- *Priority Area: Agricultural and Working Lands Viability **and Food System Support***
- *Priority Area: **Increasing Building** Climate Resiliency*
- *Priority Area: Committed to Leadership, Partnership, and Collaboration*

- *Priority Area: Governance and Accountability*

WDFW Request to be a full WSCC Member

Chairman Longrie welcomes Ron Shultz, SCC Policy Director, to present the next agenda item concerning the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife's request to be a full WSCC Member. Mr. Shultz explains that recently the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) communicated to the Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC or Commission) the interest of WDFW to be added to the Commission as a full voting member.

The Conservation Commission currently consists of 10 voting members, the composition of which is established in statute. According to the statute, Commission membership consists of the following:

- *2 members appointed by the governor, one of whom shall be a landowner or operator of a farm.*
- *3 elected members, at least 2 of which shall be landowners or operators of a farm.*
- *5 members representing: the directors of Ecology and WSDA; the commissioner of public lands; the dean of the college of agriculture at WSU, and the president of the Washington Association of Conservation Districts. These members may appoint a designee through delegation of authority.*

The statute also authorizes the Commission to invite appropriate officers of cooperating organizations, state and federal agencies to serve as advisers to the Commission. These advisors are not official members of the Commission and do not vote on Commission matters. WDFW has served as an advisory member of the Commission for many years. There are a number of issues managed by WDFW which overlap with the work of conservation districts and the Commission. Specifically, these issues relate to species management, land management, and habitat protection and restoration.

In November 2019, WDFW Director Kelly Susewind submitted a letter to the Commission requesting WDFW be added to the Commission as a voting member (a copy of the letter can be found on **pages 65-66**) At the December 2019 Commission meeting, the Commission discussed the request and considered a number of factors relating to the composition of the Commission. Various options were considered, including the addition of members reflecting other interests including Tribes.

Key factors in the Commission's discussion included:

- *Concerns about balance of representation between agencies and districts;*
- *The question whether to formalize the Tribal appointment, which now is an informal appointment by the Governor;*
- *Whether to add representation for urban or small-acreage agriculture.*

After extensive discussion, the following motion was passed:

"...to allow staff to distribute the options to the conservation districts for comment per the agency's policy on policies regarding adding a WDFW representative and including options adding potential other members, including a tribal representative to the commission."

Based on this motion, Commission staff submitted a survey to conservation districts for their consideration of the question of adding WDFW to the Commission. Included with the survey was a memo describing the WDFW request; offered several points for districts to consider when evaluating the request; and presented the districts with five options for consideration (a copy of the memo can be found on **pages 67-70**).

The voting was open to all district supervisors who could vote individually or as a district. SCC received 70 responses, and a compilation of responses can be found on **pages 71-80**. Below is a summary of the vote for each option:

Option 1: Add WDFW to the Commission as a full member.

Yes – 14

No– 56

Option 2: Add one additional representative of CDs if WDFW is added.

Yes – 37

No – 33

Option 3: Add one representative of urban or small acreage agriculture if WDFW is added.

Yes – 21

No – 49

Option 4: Add tribal representative if WDFW is added.

Yes – 52

No – 18

Option 5: No change to the Commission's current membership.

Yes – 46

No – 24

Staff recommends Option 5 – No change to the Commission's membership. SCC recognizes and values the many partnerships they have, and will continue to engage in, with WDFW. This recommendation is not a reflection of these activities. Staff believes the primary issue of concern is achieving the correct balance on the Commission of the various interests. Many commenters in the survey expressed concern regarding the addition of a regulatory agency to the Commission, creating an imbalance toward agencies. Others expressed support for adding WDFW if other members, such as another conservation district or Tribal representation, were added to the Commission for balance. Staff is concerned these questions of balance could lead to a larger Commission that would become unwieldy in operation and decision-making.

Motion by Commissioner Giglio to have WSCC's strategic planning process consider the composition of the Commission to achieve the goals of the Commission in support of conservation districts. Seconded by Commissioner Williams. Commissioner Beale abstains. Motion carries.

District Operations (*Information*)

North Yakima Conservation District Virtual Tour

Chairman Longrie welcomes Mike Tobin, North Yakima Conservation District Manager, to give a virtual tour of his district in lieu of an in-person tour due to continued precautions surrounding the current COVID-19 pandemic. Mr. Tobin begins his tour by inviting viewers "on the bus," and shows a map of his district, highlighting points of interest. The "theme" of the tour is how NYCD has utilized a successful collection of concepts and experiences, a way of thinking to achieve their purpose. The first "stop" is the Moxee Watershed Project, some projects highlights include 43 tons of sediment per day during the entire 210-day irrigation season reduced to 4.1 tons per day (as of 2001) and 100% landowner participation and 100% furrow irrigated ground converted to drip irrigation. The next highlighted project is the NYCD Plant Material Facility (PMF), whose mission is to "obtain, maintain, grow, and hold plants that will enhance NYCD's ongoing projects and partnerships..." The PMF is a place to "park plants" until they are put in the ground. Plants that are needed during the summer are planted on sites where there is supplemental irrigation; tractors, chippers, and trailers are kept at the PMF, and more plants are kept there for winter and year-round planting. A partnership was created with the Master Gardener program to educate individuals and other members of the community, as well as work with the program to create gardens where food is donated to local foodbanks. The next "stop" is the NYCD Cowiche Projects, which include salmon recovery, floodplain function, water quality (temperature, flow, nutrients), riparian habitat, and a new issue of agricultural land conversion. Other highlighted projects include firewise/fuel reduction, Bootjack Cabin Association, and the Wenas Watershed. Chairman Longrie thanks Mr. Tobin for such an engaging and informative virtual tour.

Policy & Programs (*Information*)

Legislative Update

Chairman Longrie welcomes back Mr. Shultz to present the Legislative Update. Mr. Shultz shares that today, March 18, is the 67th legislative day in the 105 day session, and there are 38 days left. Bills have passed their chamber of origin and are now in the opposite chamber policy committees. There are still several bills alive that are being tracked, and budgets for 2021-23 are expected in the next few weeks.

Both chambers will build their operating and capital budget proposals based on the March revenue forecast. The revenue forecast was released yesterday, March 17. The revenue for the current fiscal year is up \$1.3 billion, and the revenue for the next biennium is up \$1.9 billion. There are unclear impacts to the proposed 15% reductions in the current fiscal year. The Senate and House will now begin finalizing their operating and capital budget proposals, with the release of these proposals potentially delayed as they figure out what is in the recent recovery funding passed by Congress (WA could potentially receive up to \$7 billion).

Key bills still alive are:

- **ESHB 1056:** Concerning open public meeting notice requirements and declared emergencies.
- **SHB 1329:** Relating to public meeting accessibility and participation.
- **E2SHB 1117:** Relating to promoting salmon recovery through revisions to the state's comprehensive planning framework.
- **E2SHB 1382:** Streamlining the environmental permitting process for salmon recovery projects.
- **ESB 5220:** Concerning the taxation of salmon recovery grants.
- **2SSB 5045:** Establishing a state meat and poultry inspection program.
- **2SSB 5253:** Implementing the recommendations of the pollinator health task force.
- **2SHB 1168:** Concerning long-term forest health and the reduction of wildfire dangers.
- **E2SHB 1216:** Concerning urban and community forestry.
- **2SHB 1099:** Improving the state's climate response through updates to the state's comprehensive planning framework.
- **SB 5126:** Concerning the Washington climate commitment act.
- **E2SSB 5141:** Implementing the recommendations of the environmental justice task force.

Next steps including continuing to track and engage on the legislation mentioned, and watching for budget proposals, particularly for budget provisos.

District Operations (*Information*)

District Operations & Regional Manager Report

Chairman Longrie calls on Allisa Carlson, SCC South Central Regional Manager to present the District Operations and Regional Manager Report. Ms. Carlson reports on some recent accomplishments, including the NRI & Shellfish Project check-ins, continuing to provide support to CDs on COVID-19 response (all districts are in Phase 2, but Phase 3 is coming soon), working with districts and providing reminders on elections and appointments, new CD staff orientations and trainings, and CAPP evaluations are underway. Ms. Carlson also reports on the Veterans Conservation Corps, an internship program much like the AmeriCorps program. Veterans

Conservation Corps is run through the VA and is housed in the counseling and wellness program, intended to help veterans make the transition from “battlemind to homemind.” Several CDs in Washington State have worked with the program, and more are beginning to do so.

Governance Subcommittee Update

Chairman Longrie welcomes back Ms. Joy to present on the next agenda item concerning the Governance Subcommittee. Ms. Joy explains that in December 2019, the SCC took action to form this committee, to draft governance policies for the Commission over the course of 2021 with regular updates to the full Commission. This is the first such update. Three Commissioners (Spaeth, Dorner, and Giglio) were appointed at the December 3, 2020 Commission Meeting. Other members include Carol Smith (SCC Executive Director), Shana Joy (SCC Regional Manager Coordinator), Alison Halpern (SCC Policy Assistant), Sarah Groth (SCC Fiscal Manager), and Jean Fike (SCC Puget Sound Regional Manager).

Initial work has included the first meeting held on February 18, 2021, the agreed upon structure for work, reviewing the outline of potential topics to include and consider addressing – informed by work with CDs, other governing boards, and Enduris, and reviewing prior policies that would fit within the framework of governance.

Commission Operations (Information)

Chairman Longrie invites Director Smith to give a brief update. Director Smith shares that the first in-person committee meeting will be held in September, contingent on the public health landscape. This meeting will be held in Grays Harbor Conservation District, hosted by Mike Nordin. Chairman Longrie adjourns the meeting at 3:01 p.m.