Regular Business Meeting ~

The Washington State Conservation Commission (Commission/SCC) met virtually on March 17, 2022. Chairman Daryl Williams called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m.

Note: All meeting materials can be found on our meetings webpage. You will find the meeting packet with background information, presentations and past meeting information.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Daryl Williams, Chairman, Governor Appointee  
Larry Cochran, Vice-Chairman, elected eastern region rep.  
David Giglio, Department of Ecology  
Dean Longrie, elected west region rep  
Harold Crose, elected central region rep.  
Jim Kropf, Washington State University  
Mike Mumford, Washington Association of Conservation Districts  
Perry Beale, Department of Agriculture  
Sarah Spaeth, Governor Appointee  
Terra Rentz, Department of Natural Resources

COMMISSION STAFF PRESENT

Christopher Pettit, Executive Director  
Lori Gonzalez, Executive Assistant  
Ron Shultz, Policy Director  
Laura Meyer, Communications Director  
Allisa Carlson, Southcentral Regional Manager  
Brian Cochrane, Habitat & Monitoring Coordinator  
Jean Fike, Northwest Regional Manager  
Alicia McClendon, Administrative Assistant  
Josh Giuntoli, Southwest Regional Manager  
Alison Halpern, Scientific Policy Advisor  
Shana Joy, District Operations Manager  
Bill Eller, Voluntary Stewardship Coordinator  
Paige DeChambeau, Communications & Outreach Manager

PARTNERS REPRESENTED

Nicholas Peak, US Environmental Protection Agency Region 10  
Tom Salzer, WA Association of Conservation Districts  
Ryan Baye, WA Association of Conservation Districts  
Roylene Comes At Night, USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Nick Vira, NRCS Partnership Liaison  
Michael Kuttel, Jr., WA State Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Doug Rushton, National Association of Conservation Districts

GUESTS ATTENDED

Please see “Attachment A” for full list of attendees.

Consent Agenda (Action)

Motion by Commissioner Cochran to approve the Consent Agenda (Draft March 17, 2022 Business Meeting Minutes). Seconded by Commissioner Crose. Motion passed.
District Operations

Rock Lake Conservation District Mid-term Appointment

Motion by Commissioner Cochran to appoint Erik Logen to the Rock Lake Conservation District Board of Supervisors. Seconded by Commissioner Longrie. Motion passed.

Pierce Conservation District Election

Motion by Commissioner Longrie to not certify and announce the official winner of the Pierce Conservation District election as the issue presented did establish a finding of significant noncompliance with WAC Chapter 135-110 and the election procedures published for this election cycle. Seconded by Commissioner Cochran. Motion passed.

Policy & Programs

Agricultural Conservation Easement Sponsorship

Motion by Commissioner Beale that the Commission has determined acquisition of agricultural conservation easements on the three properties is consistent with the mission, duties, and purposes of the SCC.

The Commission hereby authorizes the State Conservation Commission Executive Director to sign required documents to submit grants for agricultural conservation easements on three properties: CKCD Davenport, KCCD Swauk Prairie, and NYCD Emerick. Seconded by Commissioner Giglio. Motion passed.

Draft Sustainable Farms and Fields Draft Programmatic Guidelines

Motion by Commissioner Crose to authorize Director Pettit to approve the dissemination of the first draft of the Sustainable Farms and Fields guidelines to districts and stakeholders for a 45–day review process. Feedback will be gathered and considered by SCC, WSDA, WSU, and NRCS staff during the development of next draft of the guidelines. Final draft will be presented at the May 19 SCC meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Beale. Motion passed.

Budget and Finance

State Conservation Commission Executive Director Appointment

Motion by Commissioner Rentz to approve the proposed 2023-25 state budget development process and timeline for the SCC and conservation districts (outlined below). Seconded by Commissioner Cochran. Motion passed.

General Process and Timeline

Post-SCC March Meeting:

- Save-the-Date sent to CDs for webinars to help develop budget ideas and funding recommendations. SCC work on session design.
- Message to all conservation districts, WACD and SCC staff regarding the budget development process and ensuring proposed packages have a strong tie to our newly adopted strategic plan.

- **March – April 2022**: SCC develops materials for the all-district meeting.
- **April 2022**: SCC/CD meeting to begin budget development strategy. Identify budget proposal topics. Identify work groups to continue development of decision packages.
- **April-June 2022**: Outreach to other agencies and stakeholders.
- **May 19, 2022**: Commission to discuss proposed decision packages.

**Approve:**
1) the budget package topics and
2) to continue development of decision packages for these topics. (Any late-developing topics will be presented to the Commission at the July meeting.) Approval of topics at this meeting ensures that districts can design more effective tours in the summer months.

- **May – July 2022**: Continued work by SCC, and CDs on refining decision packages. Continued outreach to stakeholders and agencies.
- **July 21, 2022**: At the SCC regular meeting, refined information, including funding levels, is presented for each budget topic. Commissioners approve submittal of the budget and prioritize decision packages.
- **September 1, 2022**: Operating and Capital budget proposals submitted to OFM.
- **September 15, 2022**: Commission approves messaging around budget proposals.
- **December 2022**: Governor releases proposed Biennium 2023-25 operating and capital budgets.

Chairman Williams adjourned the meeting at 2:51 p.m.