

Washington Association of Conservation Districts Association Business Meeting Minutes

November 29, 2023

Wenatchee Convention Center & via Zoom

President Mike Mumford called the business meeting to order at 9:05 AM.

WACD Staff Ryan Baye conducted a roll call of the member-districts and those supervisors and other authorized voters participating in the meeting. There were 46 voters present at the start of the meeting. Eight Associate Supervisors were authorized by their respective district to vote:

- Ryan Ellis – Lewis CD
- Larry Davis – Whatcom CD
- Jim Golb – Pierce CD
- Stu Trefry – Pierce CD
- Randy Kelly – Okanogan CD
- Pauline Hagen – Stevens County CD
- Avrum Baum – Stevens County CD
- Eleanor Mattice – Stevens County CD

Parliamentarian Briefing

WACD Staff Ryan Baye delivered an explanation on how the meeting would be conducted with both in-person and virtual speakers, a refresher of parliamentary rules for attendees, how voting would be conducted, and how folks should react when facing any technical difficulties.

2022 Business Meeting Minutes

Dean Longrie, Clark CD, moved to adopt the 2022 Business Meeting Minutes as presented. Second by Amy McKay, Whitman CD. The motion was adopted. John Floyd, Pend Oreille CD, asked that a call for abstentions be included in future motions.

Public Comment Period

No one offered a public comment during the public comment period.

Treasurer's Report for FY2023 & Report on Current Fiscal Year

Treasurer Dave Fenn spoke to some of the changes he was proud of during his tenure as Treasurer like additional internal controls, a change in accounting firms, the adoption of an investment plan, WACD's enrollment in the state Local Government Investment Pool, and a recalculation of WACD's reserve accounts.

Dave shared some of the financials for the fiscal year, the current balance in WACD's two bank accounts, and the performance of the Edward Jones Investment Account. Carolyn Kelly, South Douglas CD, asked about the available funds in case of equipment failure and budgeting for the expected increase in the minimum wage. Executive Director Tom Salzer responded with information on WACD's reserve account policy and how much was available to replace equipment, as well as the PMC's expected reduced labor costs for FY24.

President Mike Mumford thanked Dave Fenn for his service to WACD and spoke to Dave's impact on the association. **Alan Chapman, Whatcom CD, moved to approve the Treasurer's Report for Fiscal Year 2023. Second by Jeff Schibel, Lincoln County CD. Motion carried.**

Plant Materials Center Status Report

Assistant Nursery Manager John Knox spoke to the membership, providing additional information beyond the written report included in the WACD Conference Packet. John reported on the conditions for the current harvest, which had started that week. He invited anyone interested in the nursery to come visit them in Skagit County and cited some of individuals and groups who had stopped by.

Resolutions as Recommended by the Natural Resources Policy Committee

Vice President Amy McKay, Whitman CD took over as chair of the proceedings and began by explained how resolutions were reviewed by the Natural Resources Policy Committee and were identified as "Do Pass", "Do Pass as Amended" or "Do Not Pass" by the committee members. She presented five resolutions that she identified as could be adopted as a unanimous slate.

- 2023-01 Improved Cost Share for virtual fence development (Foster Creek CD) - *Recommend Do Pass as Amended*
- 2023-02 WACD supports of the use of food-grade biochar as an additive to livestock feed to reduce methane production and greenhouse gas emissions and to improve soil and animal health (San Juan Islands CD) - *Recommend Do Pass*
- 2023-03 Reducing and Recycling Plastics in Agriculture and Natural Resources (Thurston CD) – *Recommend Do Pass*
- 2023-06 Interest-free conservation agriculture equipment loan program (Palouse CD) - *Recommend Do Pass as Amended*
- 2023-07 Carbon Conservation Stewardship Program (Palouse CD) - *Recommend Do Pass as Amended*

Dean Longrie, Clark CD, moved to adopt the five resolutions as presented as a unanimous slate. Second by Cindy Reed, North Yakima CD. Bruce McDonald, Lewis CD, objected to the inclusion of Resolution 2023-03 and 07 in the slate and the two resolutions were removed for additional discussion. Resolutions 2023-01, 02, and 06 were adopted as recommended by the Natural Resources Policy Committee.

Doug Rushton, Thurston CD, moved to adopt Resolution 2023-03 as recommended by the committee. Second by Dean Longrie, Clark CD. Bruce McDonald, Lewis CD, offered a friendly amendment to include "And to seek alternatives to plastics" at the end of the resolution. It was accepted by the maker of the motion. Richard Leitz, Columbia Basin CD, believed the resolution was unnecessary because plastic pesticide containers could already be recycled. Sarah Moorehead, Thurston CD Executive Director, spoke to the many types of plastics used in natural resource industries that could not be recycled and how the goal of the resolution would be to reduce the use of plastic and find reliable and sustainable ways to recycle. **The motion to adopt the resolution as recommended was adopted.**

Cindy Reed, North Yakima CD, moved to adopt Resolution 2023-04 Agricultural, forest, and rangeland mitigation as recommended by the Natural Resources Policy Committee. Second by Lynn Bahrych, San Juan Island CD. Mike Tobin, North Yakima CD District Manager, spoke to his district's concern over the increasing loss of working lands and wanted to see mitigation processes put in place. Stu Trefry, Pierce CD, wanted to know if this resolution would aid efforts by the Conservation Commission's Office of Farmland Preservation. Kate Delavan, WSCC, believed any conversation about the importance of farmland preservation would be valuable and acknowledged the complexity of the topic. Lynn Bahrych, San Juan Islands CD, supported the resolution believing a push around farmland preservation was long overdue and would volunteer to be a part of any efforts resulting from adoption of the resolution. Carolyn Kelly, South Douglas CD, supported the resolution because of its tie to VSP and the neglect of VSP's ag viability component. **Resolution 2023-04, as recommended by the Natural Resources Policy Committee, was adopted.**

Cindy Reed moved to approve 2023-05 Hydropower Position Statement as recommended by the Natural Resources Policy Committee and received a second. Mike Tobin, North Yakima CD District Manager, spoke to his board's concern about the state's policy around hydropower and the "social engineering" of hydropower not being considered as a renewable energy resource. Stu Trefry, Pierce CD, was confused about the exact action being requested of the association in the resolution/ Mike Nordin, Pacific and Grays Harbor CD District Manager, spoke to the push for wave and wind energy generation along the Washington coast. **Cindy Reed, North Yakima CD, offered a friendly amendment to the resolution by substituting "this" for "hydropower as a renewable resource".** Bill Knutsen, King CD, asked the membership to consider how this resolution could move the topic forward meaningfully in places where he lived like King County. Daryl Williams, Conservation Commissioner, believed the resolution should be broadened to cover all of renewable resources and its impact on agriculture and landscapes. Mike Mumford, Pend Oreille CD, provided background information on a similar resolution considered at the 2022 Annual Business meeting and the "least conflict" study conducted by WSU this year. Mike Nordin, Pacific and Grays Harbor CD District Manager, was glad to see the community discussing the topic and wanted to have individuals with a working lands frame-work be a part of the statewide discussion. **Resolution 2023-05 was adopted as amended.**

Larry Cochrane, Palouse CD moved to approve 2023-07 Carbon Conservation Stewardship Program as recommended by the Natural Resources Policy Committee and received a second. Larry Cochrane, Palouse CD, wanted agriculture to see the benefit of carbon sequestration efforts. Bruce McDonald, Lewis CD, detailed his experience from securing carbon credits for his forestland and the concern about the return for the effort that would be required to create this program. Richard Leitz, Columbia Basin CD, described how he had seen a carbon credit program be created for a yearly contract. **Mike Mumford, Pend Oreille CD, offered a friendly amendment to include "through NRCS or through other entities" to the resolution. It was accepted by the maker of the motion. Resolution 2023-07 was adopted as amended.**

Ryan Ellis, Lewis CD moved to adopt 2023-08 Opposition to Removal or Breaching of the Four Lower Snake River Dams as recommended by the Natural Resources Policy

Committee and received a second. Doug Rushton, Thurston CD, wanted to see the title of the resolution reflect the intent of the resolution. He offered a friendly amendment to insert “Educate Communities”, which was accepted by the maker of the motion. Mark Nielson, Benton and Franklin CDs District Manager, described the reason why his board brought forward a resolution with a position statement rather than a task force and additional details about a potential deal between tribes and federal officials. Scott Moore, Franklin CD, wanted to see a discussion on the position statement proposed by the CD versus the creation of a task force that the committee recommended. **Ryan Ellis, Lewis CD, withdrew his motion. Scott Moore, Franklin CD, moved to adopt 2023-08 Opposition to Removal or Breaching of the Four Lower Snake River Dams, as proposed by Franklin CD. Second by Jack Clark, Benton CD.** Stu Trefry, Pierce CD, asked if the resolution would still be timely if a federal agreement was forthcoming. Mark Nielson, Benton and Franklin CDs District Manager, argued nothing was final until the judge assigned to the lawsuit signed off on the agreement and the position statement could still have merit. Scott Moore, Franklin CD, believed organizations like WACD should have strong oppositional statements on the topic of breaching the dams. Joe Kear, Underwood CD, believed a resolution like this would be jumping the gun and was opposed to the resolution. John Hopkins, Pierce CD, agreed with the previous speaker that the resolution is premature and believed it was an odd position statement on dams without mentioning salmon passages. **The chair believed a voice vote was inconclusive and ordered a roll call vote. The Resolution was adopted 24-21 on a roll call vote.**

Lee Hemmer, Foster Creek CD, moved to adopt Resolution 2023-09, Solar and Wind Project Moratorium, as recommended by the Natural Resources Policy Committee and received a second. Bruce McDonald, Lewis CD, inquired if it would be appropriate to seek the addition of the Conservation Commission on EFSEC. Mike Mumford, Pend Oreille CD, pointed out that the title of the resolution didn’t line up with the text of the resolution. Richard Lietz, Columbia Basin CD, did not trust the Governor’s intentions and was concerned about the impact on the landscape of all the newly approved solar and wind projects by EFSEC. Chris Laney, Lincoln County CD, shared the history of a proposed coal plant in his area and the positive interactions he had with EFSEC at the time. Mike Mumford, Pend Oreille CD, repeated his concern that the title of the resolution didn’t line up with the text of the resolution. Gary Ketcheson, Whidbey Island CD, sought clarification that the resolution was seeking engagement with a state agency and not lobbying for a seat for the Commission on the agency’s board. Jeanette Dorner, Pierce CD, offered a friendly amendment to amend the title to read “Solar and Wind Project Coordination with Local Authorities” and it was accepted by the maker of the motion. **Resolution 2023-09 was adopted as amended.**

There was a recess for lunch until 12:30

Lee Hemmer, Foster Creek CD, moved to adopt Resolution 2023-10 Improving Natural Resource Agency Management Plan Funding and Implementation (as recommended by the Natural Resource Policy Committee) and received a second. Mike Nordin, Pacific and Grays Harbor CD District Manager, discussed his board’s frustration with state agencies who were buying up land without effective land management plans and its impact of subsuming private lands in their communities. Brian Sheldon, Pacific CD, spoke to the damage of invasive species on public lands on neighboring private lands. Dave Stadelman, Columbia Basin CD,

described his personal experience with lack of management by a state agency was impacting his ag operation. Doug Rushton, Thurston CD, was a lands manager for WDFW at one point in his life and agreed this lack of management was a long-standing issue with public agencies. Lee Hemmer, Foster Creek CD, described how the state had bought several thousand acres for sage grouse in Douglas County and after a fire did not feed the grouse leading them to die en masse. Dave Fenn, Lewis CD, offered a friendly amendment to the title of the resolution to insert “until management plans are developed and instituted” which was accepted by the maker of the motion. Tom Salzer, WACD Executive Director, wanted to confirm which version of the resolution was under discussion and clarify WACD would not be in a position to seek prohibition of state land purchase. Mike Nordin, Pacific and Grays Harbor CDs District Manager, shared a conversation he’d had with a legislator about being 25 years into a 20-year land acquisition program. Jeanette Dorner, Pierce CD, was still concerned about the title of the resolution and offered a friendly amendment to modify the title to read “Improving Natural Resource Agency Management Plans.” Loren Meagher, Central Klickitat and Eastern Klickitat CDs District Manager, sought to include a reference to local input when developing management plans to the resolution. Dean Longrie, Clark CD, argued the primary intent of the resolution should be to seek additional funding for management plans and offered a friendly amendment to the title to read “Improving Natural Resource Agency Management Plan Funding and Implementation.” Jerry Scheele, Spokane CD, shared his experience working with the Upper Columbia Resource Conservation & Development District and helping landowners deal with the impact of unmanaged state lands. Stu Trefry, Pierce CD, offered a friendly amend to the resolution to insert “and the State Legislature” and it was accepted by the maker of the motion. Mike Nordin, Pacific and Grays Harbor CDs District Manager, supported the changes made to the resolution and ensuring that management funding was a part of any state lands purchases. Jeff Schibel, Lincoln County CD, observed that federal land management was also an issue to be considered. Will Bowdish, Central Klickitat CD, agreed with previous speakers regarding management plans requiring local input but had seen first-hand in Klickitat County that state agencies don’t necessarily follow their own plans. **Resolution 2023-10, as amended, was adopted with two abstentions.**

Resolutions as Recommended by the Legislative, Bylaws, and District Policies Committee

Jeanette Dorner took over as chair of the proceedings. She offered a slate of resolutions to be adopted by unanimous consensus

- 2023-12 - SCC SRF funding including planning and design funding (Pacific CD) - *Recommend Do Pass*
- 2023-13 – Cluster Archaeologist (Thuston CD & North Central Area Assn) - *Recommend Do Pass*
- 2023-14 - Communication about Fire Breaks in CRP (Walla Walla County CD) - *Recommend Do Pass*
- 2023-15 - Encouraging NRCS Field Office Staff Attendance at WACD Meetings (Okanogan CD) - *Recommend Do Pass*
- 2023-19 - Fire Response through creation of Rangeland Fire Protection Associations (Foster Creek CD) - *Recommend Do Pass*

- 2023-21- WACD, SCC, CD's Summer/Fall Legislative Workshops (Pacific CD) - *Recommend Do Pass as Amended*
- 2023-23 - Gaining CD Eligibility for RCO Land Acquisition Grants (Eastern Klickitat CD) - *Recommend Do Pass*

Doug Rushton moved to adopt the recommended resolutions as a slate with unanimous consent and received a second. Bruce McDonald, Lewis CD, asked that Resolution 2023-19 be pulled from the slate for discussion. Jeff Schibel, Lincoln County CD, asked that Resolution 2023-14 be pulled from the slate for discussion. The motion to adopt Resolutions 2023-12, 13, 15, 21, and 23 was approved.

Lisa Zaborac, Grays Harbor CD, moved to adopt Resolution 2023-11 - Multiple Year Plant Materials Contracts with Conservation Districts as amended by the Legislative, Bylaws, and District Policies Committee and received a second. David Marcell, Grays Harbor and Pacific CDs Assistant District Manager, noted that the title doesn't match the language of the amended resolution but had no concerns with the amendments offered by the committee other than wanting to see the creation of a task force or workshop explicitly mentioned. Lisa Zaborac, Grays Harbor CD, offered a friendly amendment to insert "shall create a task force" in to the resolution and it was accepted by the maker of the motion. Mike Mumford, Pend Oreille CD, offered a friendly amendment to amend the title to say "PMC Task Force" and it was accepted by the maker of the motion. Lynn Bahrych, San Juan Islands CD, sought clarification on the intent of the task force and if it would be focused on expanding the PMC. David Marcell, Grays Harbor and Pacific CDs Assistant District Manager, believed the focus of the group should be on providing native plants to conservation districts and could consider expansion as a possible pathway to that end goal. Jeanette Dorner, Pierce CD, offered a friendly amendment to re-write the resolution to state "WACD shall create a task force including conservation districts to explore ways of providing additional native plants to conservation districts" and it was accepted by the maker of the motion. Dean Longrie, Clark CD, asked if WACD PMC staff were consulted on this resolution. **The motion to adopt Resolution 2023-11 as amended was approved.**

Carolyn Kelly, South Douglas CD, moved to adopt Resolution 2023-14 and received a second. Loren Meagher, Central and Eastern Klickitat CDs' District Manager, asked if the wording could be changed from "fire break" to "fuel break" since the goal is to break up the fuel that goes into big fires. Mike Mumford, Pend Oreille CD, asked if changing the title was important since he had seen the terms used interchangeably. John W. Floyd, Pend Oreille CD, noted the resolution needed to be changed to state the goal would be to "help reduce the spread of wildfires". Jeff Schibel, Lincoln County CD, asked if this was a current NRCS practice and if would be effective in reducing the spread of wildfires. Renee Hadley, Walla Walla County CD, confirmed this was already an NRCS practice and had confirmed its usefulness with their local fire districts, and wanted the resolution to help increase awareness. Doug Rushton, Thurston CD, shared with the membership that this resolution would go to the NACD Annual Meeting if passed and he would work with the original district in Walla Walla in changing the text to match the NACD format. **The motion to adopt Resolution 2023-14 as amended was approved.**

Stu Tefry, Pierce CD, moved to adopt Resolution 2023-16 - Support Supplemental Funding to Conservation Commission and received a second. Motion carried.

Carolyn Kelly, South Douglas CD, moved to adopt Resolution 2023-17 - Support SCC supplemental budget requests. Second by Larry Cochrane, Palouse CD. Motion carried.

Steve Cunningham, Central Klickitat CD, moved to adopt Resolution 2023-18 - Affirming and Empowering Locally Led Voluntary Conservation and received a second. Larry Cochrane, Palouse CD, inquired as to the reason for bringing the resolution forward and why the district felt it was necessary. Loren Meagher, Central Klickitat and Eastern Klickitat CDs District Manager, felt there were challenges with the growth of the Commission and turnover amongst leadership and felt it was important to reaffirm the commitment to locally-led conservation. Larry Cochrane, Palouse CD, felt the resolution was unnecessary without specific concerns that could be addressed by adopting this resolution. Bruce McDonald, Lewis CD, sought clarification on the final paragraph of the resolution regarding how to prepare for potential changes to RCW 89.08. Lynn Bahrych, San Juan Islands CD, believed it would be prudent to wait before adopting the resolution to see how the new Executive Director engaged with conservation districts. Stu Trefry, Pierce CD, wanted to point out that parts of the resolution felt like “something had happened” and that someone wanted to fix a perceived wrong in the implementation of a program or contract. Steve Cunningham, Central Klickitat CD, believed there was no one issue that caused his district to write the resolution but rather the general perceptions of new Commission staff regarding the relationship between the Commission and conservation districts. Wade Troutman, Foster Creek CD, was in favor of the resolution and thought the angst felt by districts was due to both an increase in CD and WSCC budgets as well as lack of stability in the executive position at the Commission. Loren Meagher, Central Klickitat and Eastern Klickitat CDs District Manager, felt it was a hard resolution to write but that there were unnecessary roadblocks to functioning effectively and wanted to have this conversation with the whole membership. Dean Longrie, Clark CD, didn’t understand the need for the resolution and he had seen nothing but hard work from the Commission staff. **The motion to adopt Resolution 2023-18 was approved with two abstentions.**

Lee Hemmer, Foster Creek CD, moved to adopt Resolution 2023-19 - Fire Response through creation of Rangeland Fire Protection Associations and received a second. Bruce McDonald, Lewis CD, sought additional information on the role of CDs and the Conservation Commission vis a vis the proposed rangeland fire protection district associations. Ryan Baye, WACD Staff, provided background information about the proposed organizations and how WACD would be on record in supporting the creation of these entities. Bruce McDonald, Lewis CD, acknowledged the need for faster response times in some parts of the state beyond what fire districts could currently provide. Lee Hemmer, Foster Creek CD, spoke to the need to provide services to the “no man’s land” areas of the state not currently covered by any fire response organizations and the need for the legislature to authorize their creation. **Resolution 2023-19 was adopted.**

Lorah Super, Okanogan CD, moved to approve Resolution 2023-20 - Addressing VSP Management Issues and received a second. Motion carried.

Amy McKay Whitman CD, moved to approve Resolution 2023-22 - Cancelling of Farm Service Agency Contracts and received a second. Amy McKay, Whitman CD, recounted her experience with a similar resolution the previous year and NACD voting down the resolution. Lynn Bahrych, San Juan Islands CD, questioned the use of the word “negligence” in the resolution. Amy McKay, Whitman CD, described the situation with FSA contracts in Whitman County and the language used by the agency in the appeal. Lynn Bahrych, San Juan Islands CD, offered a friendly amendment to insert the word “admitted” into the resolution and it was accepted by the maker of the motion. Wade Troutman, Foster Creek CD, shared his opinion as to why the resolution last year was not adopted at the NACD Annual Meeting. Renee Hadley, Walla Walla County CD District Manager, described an FSA issue in their county in 2016 that was dismissed as a “local problem”. Steve Cunningham, Central Klickitat CD, offered a friendly amendment to insert “errors” in addition to “negligence” in the resolution and it was accepted by the maker of the motion. Jennifer Boie, Palouse CD District Manager, described an FSA project in their county where the landowner had completed the terms of the contract and the agency had not honored their end. Lynn Bahrych, San Juan Islands CD, believed it was important to include the word “admitted” in the resolution as to strengthen the persuasiveness of the resolution. Sarah Moorehead, Thurston CD Executive Director, described another issue with FSA in her county where the agency refused to re-issue a check for work done after the contract signatory died. Alan Chapman, Whatcom CD, described the issues around CREP contracts in Whatcom County. **The motion to adopt Resolution 2023-22, as amended, was approved.**

Brian Sheldon, Pacific CD, moved to adopt Resolution 2023-24 - Washington State Coastal Marine Resources Committees Administration Change and received a second. Mike Nordin, Pacific and Grays Harbor CDs District Manager, described the issue of the lack of advocacy for the program by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, with the agency refusing to ask for an increase in funding since the program started in 2008 and the three-to-six month wait time for the agency to approval project funding. **The motion to adopt Resolution 2023-24, was approved.**

Amy McKay Whitman CD, moved to approve Resolution 2023-25 – CREP Contract Communication and Payment Inconsistency and received a second. Motion carried.

Alan Chapman, Whatcom CD, moved to adopt Resolution 2023-26 and received a second. Alan Chapman, Whatcom CD, spoke to the work of the Livestock Committee and the reasons for bringing forward the resolution. Stu Trefry, Pierce CD, pointed out a reference in the resolution language to the background information that would not be incorporated into the final text. Carolyn Kelly, South Douglas CD, was concerned about the degree of competence for the “technical assistance” being offered by the Department of Ecology and the science behind the “best management practices” being used by the agency. David Marcel, Grays Harbor and Pacific CDs Assistant District Manager stated that he’d seen agency staff saying that conservation district was “competing” with the department. Mike Nordin, Pacific and Grays Harbor CDs District Managers, reminded the body that this was a big concern at a statewide meeting years ago and was only getting worse. **The motion to adopt Resolution 2023-26 was approved.**

Carolyn Kelly, South Douglas CD, moved to adopt Resolution 2023-27 RCO SRRF funding moved to SCC. Second by Lisa Zaborac, Grays Harbor CD. Mike Nordin, Pacific and Grays Harbor CDs District Managers, shared the concerns of funds going to the Recreation and Conservation Office being partially directed towards land acquisition and would also not go to restoration projects throughout the state. Larry Cochrane, Palouse CD, offered a friendly amendment to add “not include land acquisition” and it was accepted by the maker of the motion. Chair Jeanette Dorner announced she was recusing herself from presiding over the meeting due to a conflict of interest with her employer receiving funding land acquisition funding from RCO. President Mike Mumford assumed the gavel. Alan Chapman, Whatcom CD, offered a friendly amendment to direct “future funding to WSCC” into the resolution. It was not accepted by the maker of the motion. Mike Nordin, Pacific and Grays Harbor CDs District Managers, reiterated his board’s goal was not to take funding for this biennium away from RCO but that riparian restoration work on private lands is the “book of business” of conservation districts. Mike Mumford, Pend Oreille CD, offered a friendly amendment to amend the resolution to say that “future salmon riparian funding be allocated to the WSCC” and it was accepted by the maker of the motion. Jeanette Dorner, Pierce CD, was concerned about setting up an adversarial relationship with a natural resource agency after working in her career for CDs, Salmon Riparian Enhancement Groups, and tribes. **Resolution 2023-27, as amended, was adopted with one abstention.**

Jeanette Dorner, Pierce CD, moved to adopt Resolution 2023-28 - Dropping population criteria and removing per parcel maximum annual rate under RCW 89.08.405(3)(a) and received a second. Dean Longrie, Clark CD, supported the resolution and recounted how Spokane County wanted to increase the rates and charges amount that had been proposed by the conservation district. Ryan Baye, WACD staff, reminded the membership that a similar resolution was adopted the previous year but without the target of the 2024 legislative session. Dave Fenn, Lewis CD, was concerned about conservation districts being seen as just another government entity. Larry Cochrane, Palouse CD, was worried that proposing an open-ended resolution would not be successful in convincing legislators. John Hopkins, Pierce CD, spoke to the importance of returning full rates and charges authority to the county level for his conservation district. Brian Sheldon, Pacific CD, asked about the unintended consequences of the legislation, if it opened the door for cities to have authority over conservation districts. Jeanette Dorner, Pierce CD, reassured the body that the only governing entity involved in rates and charges approval would be the county. Stu Trefry, Pierce CD, was originally opposed to the resolution but after reading the RCW was reassured that the county should be the one setting a rates and charges amount based on the workplan and dollar amount proposed by the conservation district. Sarah Moorehead, Thurston CD Executive Director, shared that as a member of the Sustainable Funding Committee she believed the resolution would not interrupt any work done by the committee to lift the boats of all CDs and didn’t want CDs to place limits on themselves in the work they could achieve. Jim Golb, Pierce CD, pointed out that the legislative cap on rates and charges did not account for rapid inflation in a short period of time and a county would be more responsive. Zorah Oppenheimer, Clark CD, told of how her district had a conflicted history with rates and charges but supported the resolution. Doug Rushton,

Thurston CD, confirmed that the resolution would create a voluntary process. **The motion to adopt Resolution 2023-28 was approved.**

NACD Report

Doug Rushton, National Director, shared the dates of the NACD Annual Meeting with the membership and his work preparing for the national business meeting.

Election of WACD Officers

Barbara Bailey accepted a nomination for Secretary, there were no other nominations. Mark Craven accepted a nomination for Treasurer, there were no other nominations. Doug Rushton accepted a nomination for National Director, there were no other nominations. **President Mike Mumford put forward the three officer candidates as a slate for election, they were elected on a voice vote.**

President Mike Mumford adjourned the meeting at 3:02