

Washington State Update for July 16, 2023 NACD Pacific Region Meeting

NRCS

- We have a GREAT partnership in WA.
- NRCS staffing is ramping up and we are looking forward to working with new staff.
- Odessa Aquifer – this aquifer has been mined – declining and getting brackish water. Replacement water for irrigation will be from the Columbia River. This project will conserve water for domestic, municipal, industrial as well as agricultural uses and will allow continued irrigation on 97,000 acres.

WADE (Washington Association of District Employees)

We had a grand conference June 12-14 in Leavenworth, WA with various training sessions and, for me, an informative session from Dr. Alan Sutton of WSU on DEI.

Washington State Conservation Commission

- Recruiting for new executive director
- Budget from last legislative session was sensational:
 - **Operating budget - \$55 million in new funds bringing total to \$97 million for FY23-25 biennium.**
 - \$3 million for outreach and implementation of salmon riparian habitat projects with an additional \$2 million to develop and implement a riparian buffer outreach plan.
 - \$5 million for CDs to address unhealthy forests and build community resiliency to wildfire with \$10 million for the Commission to provide Firewise grants.
 - \$30 million to the Sustainable Farms and Fields Program, with up to \$6 million of that total available for technical and financial assistance.

Capital budget - \$63.5 million to the WSCC for FY23-25 (an increase of almost \$40 million from last biennium)

- \$25 million for riparian restoration grants
- Other programs funded at:
 - \$15 million for the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program
 - \$4 million for Natural Resource Investments
 - \$4 million for Farmland Protection
 - \$3.5 million to Improve Shellfish Growing Areas
 - \$3 million for VSP Project Funding

WACD – Washington Association of Conservation Districts

- At our 6/19/23 meeting we approved an annual work plan and a budget
- WACD annual meeting planning initiated for November 27-30, 2023 in Wenatchee.
- **Plant Materials Center Sets Plant Sales Records**
 - 2023 Plant sales = \$1,744,071 (as of 5/31/23; exceeding sales budget for the year of \$1,411,300 by 24%.
 - 2022 Plant sales = \$1,558,682.
 - 2021 Plant sales = \$1,100,900 (a record).
 - 2023 is an increase of almost 12% from 2022 and 50% from 2021.
- **New WACD staff** -- Heather Wendt formerly with the Benton-Franklin districts, has been selected as WACD's **first Director of Development and Engagement** working as part of the Executive office starting August 1. Her focus is **expanding WACD capacity**, better responding **member needs**, addressing the increasing mission of voluntary conservation, and providing resiliency to WACD. This includes **seeking new business and partnership opportunities** that may bring additional resources to WACD. She will be housed in Eastern Washington and her email and postal mail is being set up.



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NACD PACIFIC REGION MEETING
JULY 16, 2023 9AM-11PM
BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA

GUAM REPORT

1. Grass Roots Advocacy

- In preparation for the NACD Spring Fly-In held earlier this year, Guam SWCD representatives met locally with government leaders to introduce the SWCDs and gather input on local needs to advocate during the Spring Fly-In. The Districts successfully met with Governor of Guam Lou Leon Guerrero, Congressman James Moylan, and Senator Sabina Flores Perez (oversight chair of Guam SWCDs).
- Outcome: The meetings were well received, and the leaders were happy to learn about the work of the SWCDs as well as the Districts' critical role with NACD at the national, regional, and levels.

2. Local Working Group April 11, 2023, Hyatt Regency Guam

- The Guam SWCDs and NRCS hosted an LWG Meeting in conjunction with the University of Guam's Conference on Sustainability on April 11, 2023. The event was held from 3-5 pm, followed by a social network event from 5:30-7 pm.
- The LWG incorporated a live survey application to see real-time responses to questions determining Guam's priority resource concerns. The group enjoyed the activity as it opened the floor for much discussion. Happy to share the application for those interested.

3. Stewardship Week April 30-May 07, 2023

- The Guam SWCDs participated in the NACD Stewardship Media Campaign with NACD highlighting the theme "One Water." Local efforts to promote Stewardship Week included PSAs on how the community can be better stewards of our waters.
- Acting Governor Josh Tenorio proclaimed April 30-May 7th as Stewardship Week. Various workshops are planned for the community focused on conservation and best management practices highlighting water quality.
- The Northern District is coordinating the annual Educators Symposium scheduled for the end of July.

4. New Programs

- Guam Joint Chiefs Landscape Restoration Program - Make Southern Guam more Fire-wise