

Regular Business Meeting ~

The Washington State Conservation Commission (Commission/SCC) met virtually as well as in- person on Thursday, May 15, 2025, in Yakima, Washington. Chair Larry Cochran called the meeting to order at 8:30 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

Larry Cochran, Chair, Elected eastern region rep.
Cherie Kearney, Vice-chair, Governor Appointee
Daryl Williams, Governor Appointee
Brook Beeler, Department of Ecology
Dani Gelardi, Department of Agriculture
Dean Longrie, Elected west region
Jim Kropf, Washington State University (online)
Karen Zirkle, Department of Natural Resources (online)
Wade Troutman, Elected central region
Amy McKay, Washington Association of Conservation Districts

A quorum was present.

COMMISSION STAFF PRESENT

James Thompson, Executive Director
Alicia McClendon, Administrative Assistant
Allisa Carlson, SC Regional Manager
Amy Martin, RGP Coordinator
Kate Delavan, Policy Director
Levi Keesecker, Natural Resource Scientist
Lori Gonzalez, Executive Assistant
Paige DeChambeau, Communications Director
Sarah Groth, Chief Financial Officer
Sarah Wilcox, Communications
Shana Joy, District Operations Manager

PARTNERS REPRESENTED

Angie Reseland, Dept of Fish and Wildlife (online)
Roylene Comes at Night, Natural Resources Conservation Service (online)
Chevelle Yeckel, WA Association of District Employees (online)
Nick Peak, EPA Region 10 (online)
Heather Wendt, WA Association of Conservation Districts

All other guests are listed in the following attachments:

Attachment A – online registration/attendance sheet

Attachment B – in-person sign-in sheet

ACTION MINUTES TAKEN

Meeting opened with Lori Gonzalez taking commissioner roll call. A quorum was announced as present. Following commissioner roll call, introductions were done for guests who attended the meeting in person as well as online.

Chair Cochran asked if there were any additions or corrections needed to be made to the agenda. There were none.

CONSENT AGENDA

DRAFT March 20, 2025 Business Meeting Minutes

Motion by Commissioner Longrie to approve the March 20, 2025 draft meeting minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Troutman. Motion carried.

Out of Country Travel Request

Motion by Commissioner Troutman to approve the staff out of country travel request to Calgary, Alberta Canada July 20-25, 2025 for the North American NCF-Envirothon Competition. Seconded by Commissioner McKay. Motion carried.

COMMISSION OPERATIONS

SCC Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan & Continuity of Operations Plan

Motion by Commissioner Longrie to adopt the updated 2025 (CEMP/COOP). Seconded by Commissioner Williams. Motion carried.

Conservation District Supervisor Appointments

WESTERN REGION – Commissioner Longrie

Motion by Commissioner Longrie to appoint Jason Ragan, Mason Conservation District, James Rose, Pacific Conservation District, Mark Mauren, Pierce Conservation District, Mark Craven, Snohomish Conservation District, Marshall Stowe, Wahkiakum Conservation District, Maggie Bockart, Clallam Conservation District, Dean Wesen, Skagit Conservation District, Jennifer Colvin, Thurston Conservation District Board of Supervisors. Seconded by Commissioner Williams. Motion carried.

Motion by Commissioner Longrie to appoint Frank Kaeck to the Pacific Conservation District Board of Supervisors. Seconded by Commissioner Williams. Motion carried.

CENTRAL REGION – Commissioner Troutman

Motion by Commissioner Troutman to appoint Richard (Scott) Moore, Franklin Conservation District, William Boyum, Kittitas County Conservation District, Lorah Super, Okanogan Conservation District, Justin Grillo, South Douglas Conservation District, Russ Truman Cascadia Conservation District, Craig Kincaid Palouse Conservation District to their respective district boards. Seconded by Commissioner Williams.

Motion carried.

EASTERN REGION- Commissioner Cochran

Motion by Commissioner Cochran to appoint Zane Patton, Columbia Conservation District, Kelsy Tanneberg, Foster Creek Conservation District, Chris Laney, Lincoln County Conservation District, Jeffrey Pittman, Pine Creek Conservation District, Beau Blachly, Pomeroy Conservation District, Connie Bergstrom, Steven County Conservation District, Weston Kane, Whitman Conservation District, Randall James to the Spokane Conservation District to their respective district boards. Seconded by Commissioner McKay. Motion carried.

Motion by Commissioner Cochran to appoint Mike Mumford to the Pend Oreille Conservation District Board of Supervisors. Seconded by Commissioner Troutman. Motion carried.

POLICY, BUDGET AND FINANCE

Funding Approval for Fiscal Year 2026

Motion by Commissioner McKay to approve the funding proposals as presented below with the exception of the Engineering allocation that will be presented on June 18, 2025. Seconded by Commissioner Longrie. Motion carried.

General Fund State Operating – Fiscal Year 2026	
SCC Operations	\$3,518,915
Implementation/CTA Grant Program	\$5,702,085
Engineering	~~\$2,136,000~~
Task Orders	\$125,000
Sustainable Farms & Fields	\$1,410,000
Riparian Plant Propagation Program	\$1,222,000
CCA Natural Climate Solutions Account Operating – Biennium 2025-2027	
Forest Heath & Community Wildfire Resiliency	\$2,500,000
Riparian Grant Program Outreach	\$2,000,000
Science Hub	\$1,000,000
Riparian Plant Propagation Program	\$1,000,000
Public Works Assistance Account Operating - Biennium 2025-2027	
Voluntary Stewardship Program	\$10,719,000

Model Toxics Control Operating - Biennium 2025-2027	
Toxics funding	\$1,110,000
Capital Budget - Biennium 2025-2027	
Natural Resource Investments (NRI)	\$5,000,000
Riparian Grant Program (RGP)	\$25,000,000
Farmland Preservation & Land Access (FPLA)	\$4,000,000
Water Conservation Irrigation Efficiencies	\$7,000,000
Shellfish	\$3,500,000
Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)	\$6,320,000
Voluntary Stewardship Program Projects (VSP)	\$3,000,000
Washington Shrubsteppe Restoration & Resiliency Initiative	\$3,000,000
Capital Project Management	\$1,906,000
Total	\$58,726,000

DISTRICT OPERATIONS

Petition for Inclusion of Territory into the Grays Harbor Conservation District

Motion by Commissioner Longrie to approve the Petition for Inclusion of Additional Territory for the City of Cosmopolis to be included within the boundaries of the Grays Harbor Conservation District. Seconded by Commissioner Williams. Motion carried.

2025 Conservation District Elections

Motion by Commissioner Longrie to approve and certify and announce the official winners of 43 conservation districts, as listed in the table below. Seconded by Commissioner McKay. Commissioner Troutman abstains. Motion carried.

CONSERVATION DISTRICT ELECTION RESULTS			
CD	ELECTION WINNER		
	First Name	Middle or Initial	Last Name
Adams	David	Bryce	Esser
Asotin County	Levi	R	Luhn
Benton	Michael		Crowder
Cascadia	Mons	Peter	Teigen
Central Klickitat	Craig		Schuster
Clark	Devan	F	Rostorfer
Columbia	Charlie	S	Mead

Columbia Basin	Glenn	E	Burkholder
Cowlitz	John		Keatley
Eastern Klickitat	Ron		Juris
Ferry	Johnna		Jensen
Foster Creek	Wade		Troutman
Franklin	Joshua		Junger
Grays Harbor	Nora		Doelman
Jefferson County	Elizabeth	R	Kennedy
King	Zachary		Pratt
Kittitas County	Mark		Moore
Lewis County	Donna	M	Moir
Lincoln County	Braidy	J	Haden
Mason	Carmen		Echeverria
North Yakima	George		Cameron
Okanogan	Steve	B	Colvin
Pacific	Chase		Metzger
Palouse	Mary		Collins
Pend Oreille	Jon	Paul	Driver
Pierce	John		Hopkins
Pine Creek	Nicholas		Johnson
Pomeroy	Seth		Claassen
Rock Lake	Gerry	J	Jones
San Juan Islands	David		Bill
Skagit	Taylor		Reijm
Snohomish	Steven		Van
South Douglas	Lindsey		Morrison
South Yakima	Javier		Lopez
Spokane	Jaki		Shrauger
Stevens County	John	Douglas	Dawson
Thurston	TJ		Johnson
Underwood	Joe		Kear
Wahkiakum	Joe		Florek
Walla Walla	Matt	W	Williams
Whatcom	Valeri	Jan	Wade
Whidbey Island	Penny		Livingston
Whitman	Evan		Startin

DISTRICT OPERATIONS (*continued*)

Kitsap Conservation District Election Investigation

Motion by Commissioner McKay to accept the staff recommendation to not certify and announce the winner of the Kitsap Conservation District election. Seconded by Commissioner Williams. Motion carried.

Clallam Conservation District Election Investigation

Motion by Commissioner Longrie to certify and announce Christy Cox as the official winner of the Clallam Conservation District election. Seconded by Commissioner Williams. Motion carried.

PROGRAM GUIDELINES

Farmland Protection and Land Access (FPLA) Draft Guidelines

Motion by Commissioner Longrie to authorize the release of the Farmland Protection and Land Access Program draft guidelines for the 45-day public comment period. Seconded by Commissioner Williams. Motion carried.

Voluntary Stewardship Program Draft Guidelines

Motion by Commissioner Beeler to authorize the release of the Voluntary Stewardship Program Funding draft guidelines for the 45-day comment period. Seconded by Commissioner McKay. Motion carried.

Disaster Assistance Program Guidelines for Approval

Motion by Commissioner Longrie to adopt the Disaster Assistance Program Guidelines as final and to become effective July 1, 2025. Seconded by Commissioner Beeler. Motion carried.

Riparian Plant Propagation Program Guidelines for Approval

Motion by Commissioner Longrie to adopt the Riparian Plant Propagation Program Guidelines as final and to become effective July 1, 2025. Seconded by Commissioner McKay. Motion carried.

Sustainable Farms and Fields Program Draft Guidelines for Approval

Motion by Commissioner Kearney to adopt the Sustainable Farms and Fields Program Guidelines as final and to become effective July 1, 2025. Seconded by Commissioner Beeler. Motion carried.

PROGRAM UPDATE

Hayshaker Farm – Farmland Protection and Land Access (FPLA) Project Approval

Motion by Commissioner Troutman for the Conservation Commission to accept the FPLA Work Group's recommendation regarding Blue Mountain Land Trust's Hayshaker Farm application. The Conservation Commission approves up to \$758,150 in FPLA funding for the Blue Mountain Land Trust acquisition of an agricultural conservation easement on the Hayshaker Farm property, with a date of valuation established as the date of the fee property acquisition. The Commission also requires that a de-annexation application is approved prior to the easement closing. The Conservation Commission authorizes its Executive Director to sign the conservation easement as a third-party beneficiary. Seconded by Commissioner Longrie. Motion carried.

Chair Cochran adjourned the meeting at 2:45 p.m.

Registration / Attendee Details: May 15, 2025

Attachment A

Zoom Attendee Details

First Name	Last Name
Ashley	Wood
Angie	Reseland
Jean	Fike
B'Elanna	Rhodehamel
Mike	Poteet
Dani	Madrone
Victoria	Fischella
Nick	Vira
Jodi	Prout
Joe	Holtrop
Jan	Thomas
Zorah	Oppenheimer
Kim	Williams
Brandy	Reed
Chevelle	Yeckel
Kara	Kaelber
Alan	Chapman
Nicholas	Peak
Sarah	Moorehead
Virginia	Shogren
Roylene	Comes At Night
Joy	Garitone
Josh	Giuntoli
Megan	Stewart
Jim	Kropf
Dave	Hedrick
Leslie	Michel
Alicia	McClendon
Mary	Malone
Paige	DeChambeau
David	Marcell
Mike	Mumford
Susan	Johnson
Karen	Zirkle
Carly	Lemon
Anna	Lael
Jeremy	Anunson
Tova	Tillinghast
Karen	Hills



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Please Sign In

	Name	Entity
1.	Lori Gonzalez	
2.	Alicia McClendon	
3.	Paige DeChambeau	
4.	Sarah Groth	
5.	Dean Longrie	
6.	Bill Eller	WSCE
7.	Jeff Schickel	CCCD
8.	Hilary Aten	WSCE
9.	DOUG RUSHTON	WACD / NACD / THURSTON CD
10.	Sarah Wilcox	SCC
11.	Kate Delavan	SEC
12.	Hilary Aten	SEC
13.	Amy Martin	SEC
14.	Chris Clemens	USDA / NRCS
15.	Ryan Baye	WACD
16.	Heather Wendt	WACD
17.	Amy McKay	WACD
18.	Wade Troutman	Foster Creek / WS CC
19.	Larry Cochran	CCC
20.	Dani Gelardi	WSDA



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	Name	Entity
1.	Jeff Schibel	WACD
2.	Shanna Jay	SCC
3.	Michael Tobin	NYCD
4.	Karen Hillis	SCC
5.	Daryl Williams	SCC
6.	Randall Chipman	Tree fruit ^{Cascadia}
7.	Jennifer Beie	Palouse CD
8.	Craig Nelson	Okanogan CD
9.	Ryan Williams	Cascadia CD
10.	Evan Bauer	Mason CD
11.	Brook Buller	Ecology
12.	Jennifer Coe	SCC
13.	Allisa Carlson	SCC
14.	Levi Keeseler	SCC
15.	Mike Boden	SCC
16.	Jon H. Culp	SCC
17.		
18.		
19.		
20.		